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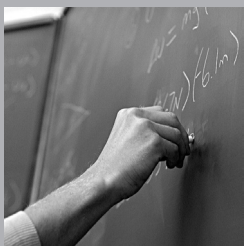
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### BLS QUIDDITCH

# Senior Officers Take Action

BY MAYA JONAS-SILVER, I  
& DAVID MA, I  
NEWS EDITORS

Senior year is rumored to be the best time of your life and Tadesh Inagaki (I), 2010 senior class president, plans to make this year the greatest Boston Latin School has seen.

Up until now, the senior class officers have been diligently working, primarily organizing and updating homeroom representatives and ensuring that seniors have been keeping up with their numerous payments for sweatshirts, caps and gowns, and more. They have organized the Halloween competition and are currently working on a skit that they will perform at the rally today.

Inagaki also has big plans for the future, the biggest of which is his famed SeniorCard. The SeniorCard is essentially an ID card that can be swiped at specially designated "SeniorCard events" such as sports games or music concerts. Seniors will accumulate points every time they swipe their cards and the points can then be turned in for a prize. "The prizes haven't been worked out yet," said Inagaki. "That's something that's still in the works, but I'm determined to make those prizes worthwhile." They also can be used to get discounts at restaurants and businesses in the Longwood Medical Area that are frequented regularly by BLS seniors.

The SeniorCard can also serve as a huge fundraiser for the senior class. The class officers have huge plans for the use of that money. Inagaki hopes to loan it out to seniors to host school events, so that the funding will not have to come out of the organizers' pockets. Once they submit a detailed event plan, the senior class will lend them some money to support the event. After they have sold tickets, they will give their money back to the SeniorCard fund. "We don't necessarily expect to make back as much as we give... but that other amount that we don't get back

is going towards lowering the cost of the ticket," Inagaki explained.

Inagaki and Camlinh To (I) have also been designing a website exclusively for the class of 2010. It would include a blog for seniors to voice their opinions and concerns, and it would be used by the senior officers as a mode of communication with the senior class. They are also designing a page onto which seniors can upload pictures from events as well as a page "for



SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT, TADESH INAGAKI

people to write short anecdotes. It'll be called 'a walk down memory lane' or something like that," said Inagaki. "Camlinh has a really amazing amount of expertise." They are currently working on the layout of the pages for the website.

Inagaki stressed that he wants to "get the message out that we as all of the class officers are here largely to support the ideas of the senior class. If you have an idea you want to work on, if you have an event you want to plan, come to us and we'll take it upon ourselves to do everything we can."

Class secretary Beata Coloyan (I) has been working primarily on the new SENIOR BULLETIN which is posted in all the senior homerooms. "Every Sunday night I type up a bulletin of things going on

during the week and I run around Monday morning, finding all the homeroom reps and asking them to distribute information," she said. The bulletin gives information about events and deadlines occurring throughout the coming week. "I put sports events on there, I put the hypnotist show, I always put the due dates for payments on there, and fun things, like Sushirama!"

Coloyan hopes to get her bulletin onto the senior website to facilitate access to information about deadlines and events around the school. "I want us to go electronic, especially because our school is trying to go electronic. I'd like to cut down on my paper notifications and once we get the website, that's how I hope to notify everyone."

Ever since she became class secretary, she has noticed that everyone is talking to her in the halls. "People know who I am! I'm not a loser!" she exclaimed. She mentioned a lunch date with the other officers that she had one Saturday afternoon: "It was really cute and we all just chilled." Coloyan loves how well the senior officers get along. Coloyan said, "Eli [Hoffman (I)] is like, one of the funniest people I know," adding that Hoffman, class treasurer, wants to have a hot dog eating contest as a fundraiser.

Inagaki also reported that Olivia Collins (I), class vice president, has been working on the girls' T-shirts, which have already been finished. Collins plans to continue working with the homeroom representatives in collecting senior expenses and in organizing future senior events.

Though our class officers may not be the Obama administration, they are making strides to make 2010 the best senior class yet.

### OBAMA WATCH

Count the number of times "Obama" appears in this issue of the Argo, and then submit your answer to [blsargo.news@gmail.com](mailto:blsargo.news@gmail.com). The first contestant to send in the correct answer will get a picture in the next issue of the Argo!

# Game Plan for Sudan

BY NHU LE, IV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The United States has long condemned the Sudanese government for the persecution in Darfur. Until recently, however, mostly talk and little concrete action have been offered on the world's newest genocide. On October 19, 2009, the White House officially released a groundbreaking foreign policy towards Sudan. U.S. envoy General Graton facilitated negotiations between the U.N. and the Sudanese government, which then led

to the creation of this policy designed to rid the country of conflict, human rights abuses and genocide. In its press release, the White House outlined President Obama's new diplomatic strategy, a "carrot and stick" approach.

America plans to pressure the Khartoum government into improving the situation of Sudan's ethnic minorities. Great rewards, such as relaxed sanctions, are offered if Sudan reverses its confrontational policy; however, if they fail to comply, the U.S. will penalize them with harsher sanctions. America plans to encourage

other nations to institute the same policy, allowing for a multilateral approach aimed at stabilizing Sudan.

Sources indicate that during talks about the shift in U.S. views were split between the conciliatory approach of General Graton and the more hard-line approach of Susan Rice, the American U.N. ambassador. General Graton's views were those eventually incorporated into the foreign policy.

GAME PLAN FOR SUDAN  
Continued on page 2

## Global News Tidbits

>>>A Peruvian gang was arrested after being accused of allegedly kidnapping and killing dozens of people for their body fat. The fat had been stored in used soda and water bottles, which were then sold to buyers, who would use the fat for cosmetics. An investigation of the gang began after a shipment of fat arriving in Lima from the Peru Mountains was discovered. Police

found remains of the victims inside a rural house in Huanaco, where 60 disappearances are linked to the gang. (Reuters)

>>>After spending two weeks on the run, Toni Musulin of France finally surrendered himself to police in Monaco for unknown reasons. Musulin, the driver of a security van, was making delivery rounds in Lyon, France on November 5 before he disappeared with more than 11 million euros (\$16.5 million

USD) from the Bank of France. Most of the money had been found by police in a garage rented out by Musulin under a different name. Musulin's admirers, who described the heist as "the perfect crime," called him an underdog turned "criminal mastermind." Some have even dedicated Facebook groups and Twitter entries to him, and have gone as far as to sell T-shirts with his face on it. (Reuters)

>>>An 18-year-old boy from Arling-

ton High School in Indianapolis is currently held in custody on charges of burglary, robbery, criminal confinement and possession of firearms. The teen and his companion were robbing a house when a baby started to cry. In order to quiet the child, one of the suspects gave him a bottle of milk. The teen was arrested after the police received a tip from a witness who saw the surveillance video on a newscast. (AP)



# News

## Editor's Note

Hey readers,  
Just like Julius Caesar, William Poff-Webster has been very ambitious this issue; he has attempted to complete everything on Final Friday—a feat that hasn't been done, according to Mr. Flynn, since the *Argo* began computerizing. (and as a man who is writing this editor's note at 1 AM on a Saturday, I can affirm this statement). And just like Brutus, I decided to betray him and watch as our Layout Editor Faith Zeng made the first strike. "Speak, hands, for me!" she cried, as the rest of the *Argo* staff also took their turns. And as he looked into my eyes, falling to the floor of the Senate, bleeding and dying, he asked me, "Et tu, Andy?" And I said, "Yeah, trick. You've been getting on my nerves." And then he said, "Well, what about our wonder-

ful Issue II articles? I mean, we have a wonderful Forum versus question about Mayor Menino's reelection." And I said, "Well, yeah, but the A&E interviews with Ms. Crewdson and Mr. Charig are totally way cooler." And he said, "Um, I think you need to reassess that statement. I like the news article with the inside scoop on the secret life of teachers (and their cliques)." And I said, "I'm pretty sure you're incorrectly referencing a novel written by Sue Monk Kidd about the struggles of a young teenage girl who grows up without a mother, but is later taken in by three black sister beekeepers and guide her as she comes of age, while also falling in love with a young black boy who wants to be a lawyer but suffers from prejudice. Meanwhile, I like the sports articles about the Powderpuff game and the first annual

Quidditch match."  
And he said, "Okay, Andy Vo. This joke has gone on for far too long. I don't think it's that funny anymore, and all this talk is making me bleed all over my fancy white toga. Can I just die and let you finish printing out the newspaper? Just pick it up at the Harvard Crimson on Monday."

"Kthnxbye."

(Dies)

-FIN-

Nota Bene: No Editors-in-Chief were harmed in the creation of this piece. However, Will Poff-Webster was unavailable for comment due to a strange red stain on his shirt.

### GAME PLAN FOR SUDAN

*Continued from page 1*

The genocide in Darfur first started in 2003 when rebel groups rose up against the Khartoum government. The government responded by supplying the Janjaweed, an Arab militia targeting civilians from ethnic African tribes, who are a minority and support the rebellion. The U.N. has estimated that the genocide has caused 300,000 deaths and displaced 2 million refugees since 2003.

The three-decade long civil war between North and South Sudan officially ended in 2005 with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. However, neither side has followed through on their commitments, and the agreement is widely regarded as defunct. Tensions are rising, and they could easily erupt into warfare. The new U.S. policy seeks to reestablish and strengthen the agreement to prevent future bloodshed.

The Obama administration appears to be drawing this new foreign policy partially from the Save Darfur Coalition's "Checklist for an Effective Sudan Strategy." Since the beginning of his presidency nearly a year ago, activist groups have long waited for any news regarding Obama's campaign promise to take action against the genocide in Darfur. Yet despite the anticipation, activist groups are less than enthusiastic about the new policy.

Leaders of the BLS chapter of STAND, a student organization against the genocide, recently returned from a conference in Washington D.C. STAND believes that Obama's policy is a decent start but is far from perfect, pointing out the vagueness of the released proposal as a serious problem. For example, the proposal mentions no specific actions the United States will take against Sudan if they are unwilling to submit to U.S.

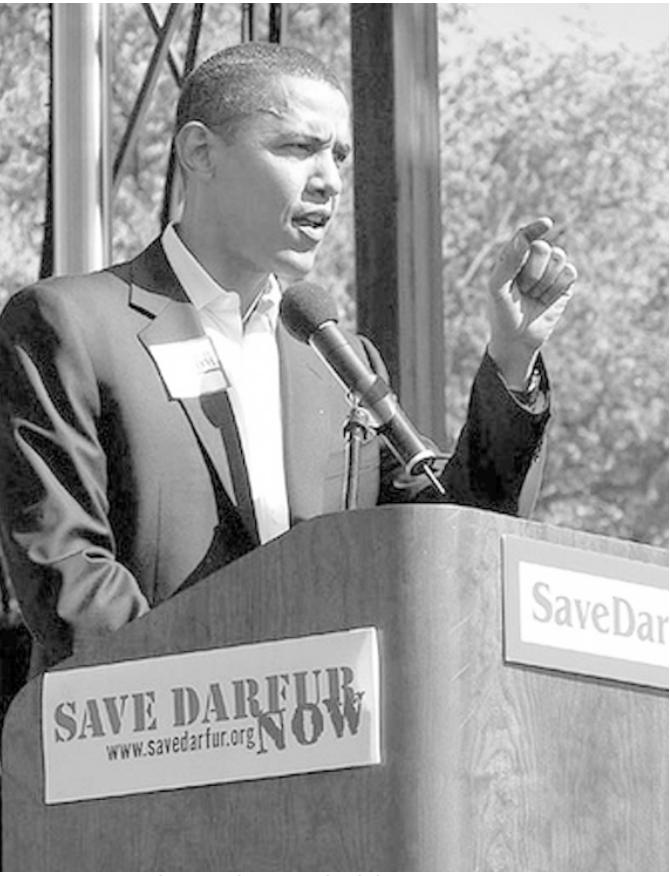
pressure.

Some Boston Latin School students believe that further sanctions against the Khartoum government are necessary. Ella Mahony (II) agrees with STAND, stressing that we can "negotiate, but we cannot cater to [Sudan]."

STAND also expressed doubts about the cooperation of the Sudanese government, especially due to the previous reluctance of President Omar Al-Bashir. Al-Bashir has been accused by the International Criminal Court of genocide and war crimes. He also expelled ten humanitarian groups from Sudan in March of 2009. The White House is adamant it will not work directly with Al-Bashir, but only with other Sudanese officials. However, President Al-Bashir's presence cannot be denied, and it is unlikely that efforts through intermediaries will avoid his influence.

Moving forward, STAND members want President Obama to pressure China, a major trading partner and backer of Sudan, to stop trading with the Khartoum government; profits from the oil trade end up supporting the Janjaweed.

Part of the new U.S. policy involves the creation of a multilateral coalition, involving China, Egypt, Ethiopia, and countries bordering Sudan. Sudan's instability affects these neighboring countries by forcing them to receive refugees and



OBAMA SPEAKING TO SAVE DARFUR

fend off the Janjaweed.

The largest concern, however, is that the United States has a long history of avoiding concrete involvement in Sudan beyond diplomatic condemnation. President Obama may want to take action against the genocide, but this policy is still not legislation.

The leaders of STAND urge that in addition to demanding that representatives support legislation on Sudan, activists must also pressure the White House to keep its word. In the end, however, STAND expresses optimism that attention and action has finally been brought to Sudan through this foreign policy. As stated by Audrey Anna Elliot (II): "It's a start."

Boston Latin School *Argo*  
2009-2010 Academic Year

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**Superior Achievement**  
**Award**

**2004 New England**  
**Scholastic Press**  
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**Highest Achievement**  
**Award**



# News

## Tragedy at Fort Hood

By MICHAEL CHEN, II  
STAFF WRITER

Armed with two handguns, Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan entered Fort Hood's Soldier Readiness Processing Center in Texas at 1:34P.M. on November 5. There, he opened fire on soldiers inside the building, resulting in the deaths of thirteen American servicemen and women.

The whole debacle happened in the span of ten minutes. Eyewitnesses alleged that Hasan entered SRPC, sat down, bowed his head for a few moments before he jumped onto a desk and shouted "Allahu Akbar," a common Islamic Arabic expression, which translates to "God is the greatest!" He then proceeded to open fire, using a .357 and an FN Five-seven semi-automatic. Hasan was finally incapacitated by two on-base civilian police officers, Sergeant Kimberly Munley and Sergeant Mark Todd, who responded to an emergency call. Munley exchanged fire with the shooter before getting shot three times, and Todd managed to handcuff Hasan. Hasan is currently held under care-

ful supervision at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Hasan was a psychiatrist in the army who helped returning soldiers cope with post-traumatic stress disorder. Although his motives remain unclear, suggestions include mental disorder, harassment from colleagues, deployment to Afghanistan and Muslim extremism. He was found, however, to be communicating with extremist Muslim Anwar al-Awlaki, who has been suspected of interacting with terrorist groups. "We don't know all the answers yet and I would caution against jumping to conclusions until we have all the facts," President Barack Obama said in a statement given on the day after the shooting. Hasan, hospitalized, has been unable to give a personal statement.

Conservative news sources cite extremist Islamic ideologies as a major factor in Hasan's plans. A poll conducted by Fox shows that 93 percent of people believe Hasan's shootings to be an act of terror. Dave Gaubatz, editor of Frontpage Magazine, states that "Hasan is a terrorist supporting the ideology of Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, and yes, CAIR [Coun-

cil for American-Islamic Relations]." Leftist sources do not eliminate terrorism as a factor, but point to Hasan's less-than-stellar record of mental instability and discrimination. As a psychiatrist at Walter Reed Hospital, Hasan was described as a person who "demonstrates a pattern of poor judgment and a lack of professionalism," according to a memo given to Hasan's supervisor in 2007.

In a speech given on November 10, President Obama paid tribute to the victims and heroes of the Fort Hood massacre by proclaiming that "we need not look to the past for greatness, because it is before our very eyes." He also personally offered his condolences to the families of the victims.

News of the incident embroiled Muslim leaders across the world. The Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan stated that "Islam in no way



SOLDIERS MOURN AT THEIR COMRADES' MEMORIAL

accepts such violence and terror... [it] is a peaceful religion with great reverence for human life." Despite the condemnation of the attacks, however, many Muslim-Americans in the Army are feeling pressured. "We love this country," says Shelton Hasan, an army veteran, "and want to protect it like anyone else."

## Oprah's OWN

By RACHEL MCKAY, I  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Since 1986, the talk show *The Oprah Winfrey Show* has dominated the attention of viewers around the world. Oprah Winfrey, an American household name, has permeated nearly every crevice of the media. Although the average Boston Latin School scholar probably cannot watch *The Oprah Winfrey Show* because of its inconvenient afternoon time slot, it still has an audience of about 23 million viewers every week.

For the past 24 years, the television program has covered almost every subject imaginable. Oprah has featured topics such as live births and pet deaths, and guests like nudist groups (only faces shown), white supremacists, transsexuals,

and more. She does not shy away from taboo matters, so every controversial issue is available for discussion in her studio, resulting in wide success. Her influence is great; Oprah's reputation even contributed to the success of President Obama's campaign. Over the years, the show has earned both positive and negative publicity.

Oprah Winfrey, however, has decided not to renew her contract for the program and will be ending her show after its 25th season in 2011.

On November 19, 2009, it was announced that Winfrey will instead have her own channel, The Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), in partnership with Discovery Network.

The name of her channel conjures the image of Oprah's already existing vast

corporate and media empire. With an annual salary just shy of 400 million dollars, she has garnered a net worth of over 2.3 billion dollars. She owns her own TV studio, *Harpo Productions*, as well as *O* magazine and Oprah's Angel Network, a charity for the underprivileged. She also founded the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Her influence already spans the globe. While being a media mogul and talk show host, she is also a film producer, philanthropist, and the host of a book club with millions of devout followers. Her influence is evident in movies, such as *Precious: Based on the novel Push by Sapphire* and Broadway musicals, such as *The Color Purple*. In a 2002 *Christianity Today* article, Oprah was described as a spiritual figure. It is clear that for over two decades, the

name Oprah has been known for many things, but above all, it is recognized for its celebrity appeal.

Winfrey's choice to leave American Broadcasting Company for her own channel is not at all surprising. As one of the few African-American billionaires and TV's highest paid entertainer, she has nowhere else to go but up. Perhaps she can further expand her charity and reach out to a new generation of people. Both *Time Magazine* and CNN dubbed Oprah as the world's most powerful and influential woman. In 2003, Winfrey exceeded both Elvis Presley and Superman as the greatest pop culture icon of all time, according to VH1. Although her tactics seem almost imperialistic, this superwoman's goodwill surpasses all negative criticisms against her.

## Questions Surround H1N1 Vaccine

By KENNETH CRUZ, V  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

People of all ages lined up around the corner of the Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, waiting for the H1N1 vaccine. Everyone received a number that determined the order in which they would receive it. The numbers ranged from one to 1000; my number was 858. The lines were in disarray as tickets were distributed out of order. People hopped in and out of line, and a steady rain soaked the hopeful vaccine recipients. In addition to the chaos, many people did not speak English and could not understand the doctors' and nurses' instructions.

A sense of urgency permeated the air surrounding the Dorchester clinic because of the knowledge that an H1N1 vaccine shortage had recently swept the nation and the world. During the summer, the Obama administration predicted that vaccine manufacturers could potentially distribute 80 to 120 million H1N1 vaccination doses by this fall, a period of time notorious for an increase in cases of influenza. Only 17 million doses, however, have been produced thus far. Administration officials blame the drug companies CSL Ltd., Novartis Vaccines, MedImmune, Sanofi Pasteur, and GlaxoSmithKline for manufacture delay of almost 30 mil-

lion vaccine doses. Regardless of the reason for the setback, anxious patients across the country are pondering this one question: Will there be enough doses for everyone?

As I continued to wait at the Dorchester House, I read a bulletin indicating that there were only enough vaccinations for the high-risk population, including pregnant women, people from six months to 24 years of age, medical personnel, and people with medical complications. There are two options for inoculation: nasal spray and injection. Both methods, however, do not guarantee recipients to be "swine-free." Regular precautions are still mandatory. Some common protection methods include dressing properly in cold weather, sneezing into the upper sleeve of one's arm, using hand sanitizer, and having no contact with infected people.

Passersby amusingly watched as the line stretched. One man questioned, "Is this vaccine really worth it?" His friend responded, "Now, after waiting more



H1N1 VACCINE ADMINISTERED TO YOUNG GIRL

than two hours for this vaccine, it better be worth it, and it better not make me sick."

The friend makes a good point, as there are some side effects of the vaccine documented by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, ranging from stuffy noses and low grade fevers to sore arms and rashes. People who are allergic to eggs are also not recommended to receive the H1N1 flu vaccination, since eggs are involved in the manufacturing process.

There has been speculation that the H1N1 vaccine is linked to more serious illnesses such as infectious polyneuritis, also known as Guillain-Barré syndrome (an autoimmune disease that can cause

muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis), multiple sclerosis, optic nerve inflammation, Bell's palsy, seizures, and even sudden death.

In one tragic story, a Washington Redskins cheerleader, Desiree Jennings, developed a rare neurological disorder called dystonia ten days after receiving her H1N1 flu shot. At first, Jennings had difficulty swallowing food, and her health rapidly deteriorated as her body was plagued with painful muscle spasms, seizures, and paralysis. Strangely, Jennings is not able to walk normally unless she is walking backwards or running, as this allows all her symptoms to disappear until she stops.

Regardless of the risks, the number of patients in line at the Dorchester House reached the maximum capacity around noon. After two and a half hours of waiting, I finally received my vaccine.

Hopefully, every country will have enough vaccines. They are finally available to the general public, but are some people becoming too desperate to obtain them? As weeks progress, more and more doses are expected to arrive in Massachusetts and around the world. Will there be enough? Whatever the case may be, doctors still advise the public to remain cautious, since the flu season has just begun.



# News

## Healthcare Bill Passes in the House

BY JOE GRAHAM, I  
STAFF WRITER

On November 7, the House of Representatives passed a landmark bill concerning health care in the United States in a narrow vote of 220-215. The bill, entitled H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, is a step forward for health care reform proponents. There are, however, still several issues to be addressed and obstacles to overcome before the final bill is approved.

The bill, which was approved by 219 Democrats and only one Republican, demonstrates the lack of bipartisan cooperation in Washington D.C. as well as fierce opposition from Republicans. In a statement released after the vote, the Republican National Committee said, "Today, with help from their liberal House allies, President Obama and Nancy Pelosi finally got what they have been creating behind closed doors these past months—a government-run health care experiment that will increase families' health care costs, increase the deficit, increase taxes on small businesses and the middle class and cut Medicare." Republican qualms are based around the issues of cost and the bill's apparent negative effects on the economy, such as increasing our country's deficit and lowering the quality of Medicare. The conservative Democrats are also concerned with these issues, shown

by 49 Democratic votes against the bill. These issues raise doubts on whether the Senate health care reform bill has a chance of passing.

Another issue of concern is the amendment that was added to the bill prior to its final vote. Introduced by anti-abortion Democrats, the amendment



CADUCEUS OF MEDICAL CARE

bans federal funds for abortion services in the health care coverage options. This amendment was considered a big win for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the official leadership body of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, which is composed of active and retired members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The USCCB used its influence on conservative Democrats to permit a vote

on abortion that the majority of Democrats opposed. The greater concern is the fact that key components of the bill—aid to abortion excluding cases of rape, incest, or if the mother's life is in danger—can be cut, making for a health care legislation with less-than-optimal provisions.

For those without the time to read the nearly 2000-page bill, the Committee on Education and Labor highlighted significant portions of the bill. The bill would protect and improve consumer choices for health coverage, while giving people the option of keeping their pre-existing plans. Patients and doctors, rather than insurance companies, would have control over health care decisions. It would ensure that Americans would still be protected, even in cases of layoffs and unemployment. It would also end increases in premiums or denial of health care based on extant medical conditions, race, gender and age. The bill promises access to greater quality health care for Americans of all ages, with a focus on prevention, wellness and strengthening programs. Employers would be required to continue offering coverage to workers or, alternatively, to contribute an increase of eight percent to the payroll. The plan would protect consumers from waste, fraud and abuse through transparency in their plans. Ultimately, they would have complete information in comprehensible language

to select their plan. The cost of the bill would be paid through a combination of savings by making Medicare and Medicaid more efficient—without cutting benefits from senior citizens in any way—and generating revenue by placing a surcharge on the wealthiest 0.3 percent of all U.S. households. The Congressional Budget estimates that the bill will reduce the deficit by at least \$100 billion over ten years.

It is clear that America's health care reform is within grasp. The bill passed November 7 in the House of Representatives would provide reforms to benefit consumers while covering its enormous cost. Conservative Republicans and Democrats, however, are still concerned. Democratic Majority Leader, Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, must tally at least 60 senators to block the conservative filibuster. In addition, it is an issue as to whether or not the final version of the bill will include many of the provisions drawn up in the current reform bill. In response to the bill's passing in the House, President Obama told reporters, "This is their moment, this is our moment, to live up to the trust that the American people have placed in us, even when it's hard, especially when it's hard, this is our moment to deliver." In the upcoming weeks, one can only hope that the Senate, whatever its final consensus may be, delivers on behalf of the welfare of the American people.

## The Secret Life of Teachers

BY SARAH MINAHAN, I  
& TONI JONAS-SILVER, IV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Everyone knows that there are cliques and different groups of friends among students here at Boston Latin School—but have readers ever wondered if the same is true for our teachers? We set out on a mission to find out which teachers are friends with whom, and more importantly, why. Are teacher relationships determined by department, age, or their locations in the building?

We encountered many scandalized looks when we asked teachers about their social lives. Some teachers would not answer our benign question, "Who are your best teacher friends?" "Teacher friends!?" they exclaimed, offended by the mere subject of friends.

During our research, however, we did find one source who was willing to tell us not only about his own friends but also about his perception of social circles among the rest of the faculty. This white-haired librarian, who chose to remain anonymous, verified some observations students had made.

He started off by naming the most prominent teacher clique—the science geeks. Then there are the Spanish teachers and the white-haired men named Steve. Mr. Montague describes the Guidance department as "one big happy family." Then there are the pairs of best friends such as Ms. Myette and Ms. Brun, Mr. Haritos and Mr. Akeson (although Mr. Akeson denied this, claiming he sees his best friend when he looks in the mirror every morning), and Ms. Burke and Ms. Figueroa.

Ms. Burke was also happy to answer our questions (even suggesting we do a column about teacher relationships and matchmaking...watch out teachers, if you thought this article overstepped boundaries, wait until the next one.). She told us that Ms. Figueroa is her best friend; they went to grad school together, their husbands and kids are friends, they live

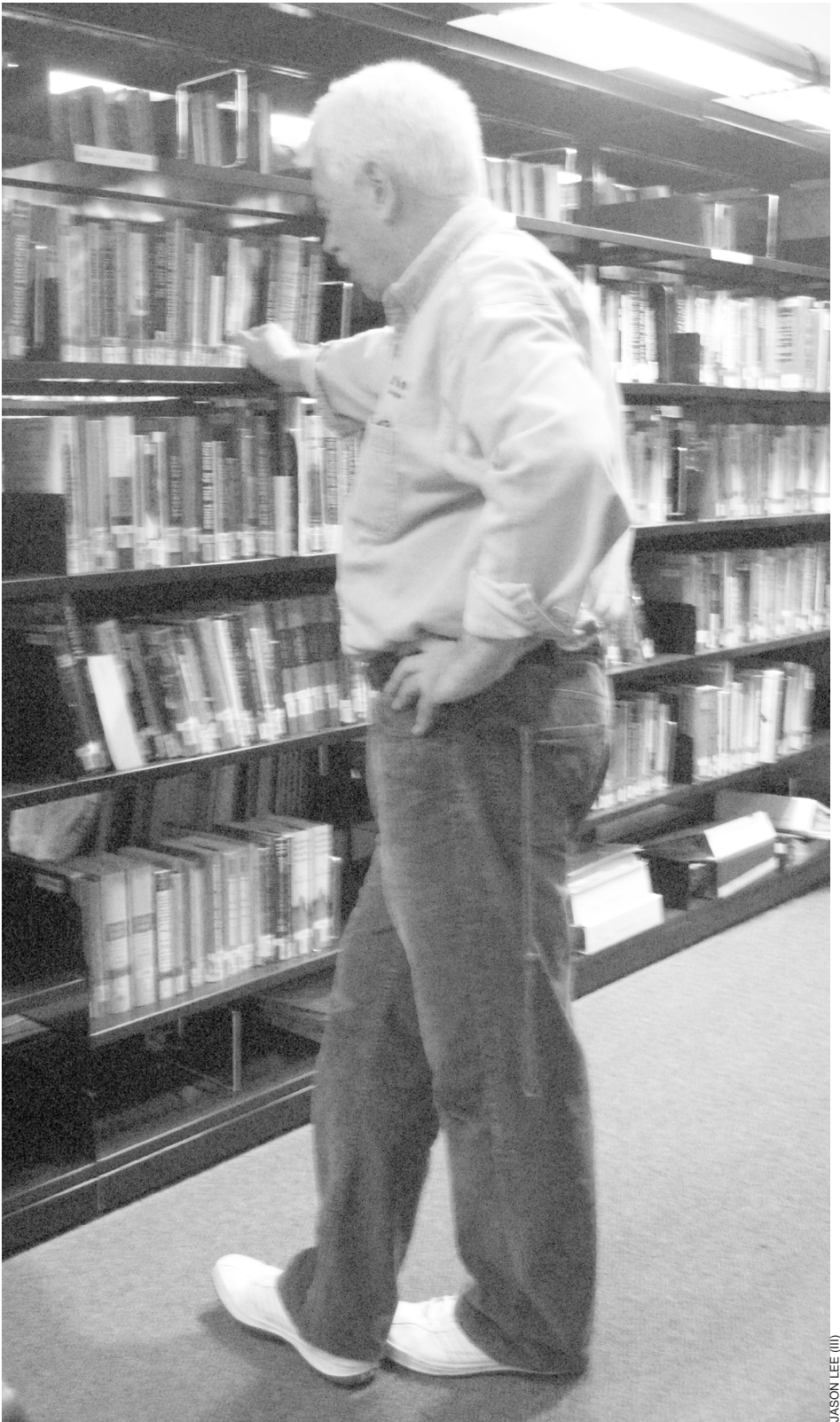
fairly close to each other, and their rooms at BLS are adjacent to each other.

Unlike Ms. Burke, Ms. Figueroa and most students, many teachers say they do not see their teacher friends outside of school walls, or even outside of their own hallways. Especially prominent in the social lives of new teachers is the phrase "locked in my room." All of the interviewed teachers say that their locations in the building are important factors in determining their friend circles. Our librarian source told us that in the past years, the teachers in his basement "Connections" hallway were all close friends. We originally thought that a major deciding factor would have been department, but the first thing most teachers said was location in the building. They only mentioned their departments upon further probing.

Another trend we noticed was a generational gap. Unsurprisingly, most teachers seem to be friends with other teachers who are approximately the same age. We recognized that the younger English teachers all seem close and the older English teachers have formed a group as well. As readers may have observed, there are a few teachers who have former students as colleagues or even bosses.

Ms. Burke, a BLS alumna, told us that it was awkward at first to work with her former teachers because it felt like she was a student again. Considering the amount of graduates who come back to teach, this feeling is probably common throughout the school.

Some teachers were reluctant to name names because they felt they got along with everyone. Mr. Keel talked about how he often drops into fellow teachers' rooms in the morning and says "Hello!"; he likes to be friendly with everyone. Ms. Bateman, while loyal to the Science and Math departments, said she hopes she gets along with everybody although "Classics people make [her] nervous." Also, Gio is her in-school boyfriend. I hope Mr. Bateman is not jealous.



OUR WHITE-HAIRED INFORMANT

JASON LEE (U)



FORUM

Life Isn't Just About College

BY YAXI WANG, I  
STAFF WRITER

Scanning through the laboriously long list of clubs in our school, I can't help but wonder just how many of these clubs are actually necessary. Exactly how many of these clubs were created because someone decided they needed an extra club title for their college résumé? Do people actually join these clubs because they are sincerely devoted to the club's cause? ...Or is it just because they need another extracurricular activity in their college transcript?

I'll admit that I've been a skeptic about clubs since I first entered Boston Latin School back in sixie year. Deciding that clubs were a waste of time, I didn't join my first club until ninth grade—only because at that time I thought they were necessary if I wanted to get into college, not because I actually wanted to meet new people and get involved with my school or anything like that.

Over the years, as I've become more involved with clubs, I've come to develop a deeper appreciation for them. The things that clubs are supposed to do—helping students meet others who have similar interests and getting them involved within the community—actually

do get accomplished. Over time, you become grateful for the opportunities that your club provides even if you didn't anticipate to enjoy them yourself. Plus, it



IF YOU'RE REACHING FOR HARVARD, CLUBS CAN HELP

helps that many of us are lazy, and staying in a club that we don't actually like requires way more energy than we are willing to expend.

Moreover, it's helpful that there are so many clubs to choose from. Even

though half of them seem like mirror copies of others, there are always slight distinctions if you look close enough. These differences may just be what makes one club the right fit for you. The extracurricular fair is just like shopping in a supermarket. Clubs are like any other product; competition can only make our clubs better and offer the buyer (the members) a better choice. Just take the *Argo* for example. With the anticipated advent of the two new school newspapers, the *Argo* will be forced to make itself more interesting to readers rather than remain complacent with its current format—as it may well do if there is no competition.

In high school, especially one like BLS, it often feels as if we do things more because it's beneficial for getting into college rather than because we want to. I won't pretend like clubs are the most fun thing in the world either. Seriously, most of us would probably spend our time hanging out outside of school rather than staying for that extra hour-long meeting for a club in school. And sometimes we have to do things, like join clubs, whether we like them or not; but if we are lucky—at the sake of sounding cliché—we can come to like them in the end.

Let's Get Going on Health Care

BY REBECCA PARK, II  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last month, I opened a copy of the *Argo* and looked for a good article to read. While glancing at various headlines, I saw “health care” out of the corner of my eye and was immediately interested. I was looking forward to reading what I thought was going to be a nice piece about the desperate need for real reform in this country and how discouraging the public debate has been. Unfortunately, this was not what I found.

There were many highly disputable points in October's health care article, including the puzzling claim that “America has the best health care in the world.” Reading this, I found myself wondering whether the authors actually *lived* in America, because I certainly don't see any evidence of the America that they described. Whether it's the exorbitant cost, the lack of access to coverage, or the uncertain coverage for those who are covered, I'm sure that the overwhelming majority of Americans beg to differ. Americans may like their doctors, but none of them like the co-payments, the calls to find out whether their plan covers a dental procedure and the fact that 30 percent of their skyrocketing annual bill goes to the companies. And all of this is in the country that has the “best health care in the world?”

Of course, the many different ways of addressing this crucial issue have polarized the country and put Congress into an often-infuriating dilemma.

It's true that capitalism works well for some industries—clothing and cars, for example—because it encourages competition that spurs creativity, innovation, and lower prices. Capitalism, however, provides no help to those who do not have the resources to compete. Health care is a human right, not a privilege; therefore, it is nonsensical and wrong that the system managing our health is solely motivated by profit. No matter how many claims the insurance companies may make about having our best interests at heart, it simply can't be true because if people don't get sick, the companies make less money.

Just as we have all taken the option to enjoy public education here at Boston Latin School, all Americans should enjoy the option of a public health insurance plan. The government's job is to *help people*, not to *make money*. Having a plan like the one proposed would increase accessibility to those who currently can't afford it, as well as improve the other private plans because they would want to remain viable and appealing options. It's no mystery why Medicare (which the article spends plenty of time criticizing) is actually one of the most popular government programs in history. Our senior citizens love not having to worry about whether or not they have insurance and if the insurance they do have will cover all the care they need. The Democrats' original proposal, which included a public health care option, simply applied this concept to the wider population. Unfortunately, after months of pressure from the health care companies, incessant disparagement from Republicans (usually based on lies), and crippling criticism from the more conservative Democrats, the plan that the House passed and the one that the Senate is currently debating fall far short of fulfilling that goal. The Republicans have spent the last six months claiming that the proposal is a “government takeover.” They are declaring that Americans will not be able to stay with their chosen doctors, and even asserting on the floor of the House that the proposal is more dangerous than terrorism. This sort of propaganda is just ludicrous. First, the Democrats' initial proposal simply included an *optional* public plan that Americans could *choose* whether or not they wanted to adopt it. Second, the public option is actually quite mild compared to that in most European countries, and as a result, many Europeans are befuddled by this debate. Third, there is actually a great deal of support from the public. In a *New York Times* and CBS News poll in June, 72 percent of participants said they supported a public insurance plan, while almost 60 percent said they would be willing to pay more taxes if it meant universal healthcare.

This brings us to the second most common complaint from the public

option's opponents: that it's too costly. There are two responses to this short-sighted gripe. First of all, the cost of not passing reform, both economically and socially, would be much greater than the cost if we were to do nothing. According to a Harvard Medical School analysis, “Nearly 45,000 people die in the United States each year—one every 12 minutes—in large part because they lack health insurance and cannot get good care.” Another study done by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health says that though America spends more on health care than any other country, it receives worse health care. Finally, in its August 2009 issue, the *American Journal of Medicine* published a report stating that medical bills cause more than 60 percents of bankruptcies in the country. Americans need a better public option.

My question is: how is it that we can spend billions of dollars *daily* on a war in Iraq (that never should have happened in the first place), a war in Afghanistan that continues to be very mishandled, and billions more in contracts to the military industry, yet still say that we don't have enough money to pay for our citizens' *health*? What kind of warped society do we live in? It is high time that America gets its priorities straight: instead of wasting our resources telling other countries how to behave, let's make sure that our country is behaving the way *I* think it should be... which I don't even know. I just like to rant. A lot. That starts with keeping *all* Americans healthy, not just those who can afford it.

We needed universal health care almost 70 years ago, when it was first proposed by President Harry S. Truman, and we need it even more today under President Barack Obama. Public insurance is more cost-effective, and more importantly, it is the morally right thing to do. In the words of the late Senator Teddy Kennedy, who fought for universal health care for more than 50 years, “[Health care] concerns more than material things; that what we face is above all a moral issue; that at stake are not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of social justice and the character of our country.

Ask the Argo  
She-Wolf

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,  
My school smells really bad. It's like a giant fart everywhere I go, especially on the first floor. And the locker room? I throw up regularly because of the smell. It's disgusting. How do I stop getting so sick with the smell, or at least, how do I learn to ignore it?  
- So Unhealthy Living in Foul, Ugly Reek Every Day

Dear SULFURED,  
You're certainly in a predicament. How can you do your schoolwork if you feel nauseous all the time? One thing I would suggest is *clamping your nose shut*. Get a binder-clip and put it on your nose and you won't be able to smell a thing! I mean, you won't be able to breathe through your nose, and it will hurt pretty badly, but you can always breathe through your mouth. And pain builds character! An alternative would be to use Febreze, because it doesn't just mask odors, it eliminates them!

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,  
While walking through the Art Wing recently, I felt the sudden, irresistible urge to go to the bathroom. Not a problem in a school with at least semi-decent bathrooms, right? WRONG! I realized that all the bathrooms were locked! In desperation, I crept into the faculty bathroom in the Art Wing. After using it and leaving, I noticed a poster on the front of the door that had a picture of a huge turkey, which said, and I quote, “Ah, Thanksgiving! Will it be a year of happy gatherings for you and your family, or... REVENGE????” That's right, Omnipotent She-Wolf. I am now being stalked by a deadly, vengeful turkey. I can hear its voice now: “My name is Inigo Turkoya. You used my bathroom. Prepare to die.” WHAT SHOULD I DO???

-Alibi Beseeking, Overly, Utterly Terrified, Totally, Obviously Dead, In Extremes

Dear ABOUT TO DIE,  
There is nothing you can do. At this point, it seems that your only option is to beg the turkey for forgiveness and cry a little. Perhaps when it sees your truly miserable state, it will take pity on you and take your life, but not turn your remains into gravy.

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,  
I keep betting on Boston Latin School's football team, and for some reason, I find myself in debt! I'm going bankrupt! What should I do?  
--Basically Roaring Over Kash Everyday

Dear BROKE,  
It seems that the football team's record is improving--albeit very slowly. We won two whole games this year! If one graphs the record of the team over the past ten years and extrapolates, over the next 67 years, you should be able to earn back all the money you've lost. This means that by the time you are 85, you will have broken even. So if you can wait to declare bankruptcy for a few decades, you'll be in the clear!

*Send your anonymous questions, worries, condundrums, lamentations, queries, or anything else you might you might want to: blsargo.advicecolumn@gmail.com*



Rally Rant

BLS Unplugged

BY REED MCCONNELL, II,  
B. KIM, III  
& OLIVIA SCHWOB, I  
FORUM EDITOR, EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE, &  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Wednesday, a rare visitor will grace the halls of Boston Latin School: school spirit. Hundreds of upperclassmen clad in purple (and some sneaky and even more purple underclassmen) will stuff themselves into the upper gym for the annual Pep Rally, an event designed to create enthusiasm about the upcoming Thanksgiving football game against English High School. This football game is billed as an event deserving of or even demanding our enthusiasm, placing the football team and cheerleaders center-stage in the manifestation of our school spirit.

It's fair to say that the cheerleaders are one of the most successful sports teams at our school. However, the origin of the sport is inherently degrading. No matter its current athletic caliber, cheerleading originated as an activity based on females providing unconditional support for an all-male team, and girls' teams certainly don't have male cheerleaders (or any at all). It is still based largely on the presentation and appearance of enthusiasm, a sport based on highlighting the performance of the male team, not the cheerleading team itself (even when the cheerleaders outshine those they cheer for). Even the traditional uniforms encourage objectification, making the short skirts as much of an attraction as the legitimate athleticism.

And although Rally may have become a representation of school spirit, the actual purpose of the event is to drum up excitement for a football game; it's a huge event designed to cheer on a team that's by no means the best in the school. If you want to celebrate a sports team, try the girls' crew team, the girls' volleyball team, the boy's basketball team, or any of the other teams in the school that actually have good records. And why allow a sports team to be the only representation of school spirit? Why don't we focus on something our school has a national reputation for, academics? Given that BLS students seem

to rack up academic prizes and recognitions on a weekly basis, one would think that the school could generate a little more spirit about the intellectual prowess of that "team."

The reply we always get to this complaint is that Rally is a tradition, that our rivalry with English is over 100 years old and it's a fun thing to celebrate. But just because something is a tradition doesn't mean that it's acceptable or relevant. This tradition was started when our school and English High School were still all-boys schools, and was not changed when females were allowed into the school, except for allowing females to cheer for the males. It's an archaic, machismo-filled representation of school spirit. Furthermore, many of our society's traditions are sexist and wrong, go unrecognized as such, and remain in society far after their usefulness has abated, if it was ever there in the first place. Most women still take their husband's name when they get married, a tradition that once demonstrated a man's possession of his wife. Just because we don't care to think about sexist traditions doesn't make them any less appalling.

Football is a big deal in schools all over the country. Cheerleaders and football players rule the school from the top of the social pyramid, and football games are the most important events of the week. But we don't live in rural Ohio. Our lives do not revolve around football. Most students who are not directly involved with a football event don't attend football games, and most probably don't even know when the games are happening. Many are far too focused on schoolwork and time-consuming extracurriculars to pay attention to football games. Our school puts such an emphasis on academics that it seems kind of bogus for the administration to force half of the school to attend an event to get us "pepped up" for a game the majority of us won't be attending and don't care about. Anytime anyone proposes that Rally be optional, they get the "what a geek" look and are dismissed as lacking school spirit and a sense of fun; no one should be required to participate in a show of support for something for which we don't support.

BY MARCELLE GOGGINS, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You click on the Internet Explorer icon. Five minutes later the page opens. You're lucky because at least you have a computer. With a shortage of computers and the lab in room 016 closed, a functioning computer is hard to find at Boston Latin School. But what you don't know is all the hard work it took to even have computers at our school.



THE LAPTOP HAS NO PITY.

The major problem with the computers now is that they are worn-out, and money for replacements is scarce. In 2001, during renovations, the school spent a portion of the budget on new computers. However, these computers were bought en masse, they all became outdated at the same time. Fortunately, Ms. Catherine Meany and Ms. Paula B. DeMore have revised the procedure for purchasing computers to allow for cycles of new devices to replace the old.

As of now, Ms. Meany is working hard to reopen the room 016 computer lab. With 20 brand new computers--thanks to generous alumni contributions and a grant from IBM--the lab should be open in a couple of weeks. An additional grant from Microsoft and the alumni will provide more computers for room 014. There will be some shuffling of computers between the labs to ensure that room 016 has 32 functioning computers and room

014 has 28, but both labs will be up and running before the winter break.

While the language lab has not been very operative in the past couple of years, Ms. DeMore and several student aids have been repairing the old computers by adding random-access memory (RAM) to make the machines run faster. Ms. Meany states that the language lab has been dysfunctional in the past "because no one reported when the computers were down." Other repairs, including software updates, have been applied to all the computers in the library with money from the Harry V. Keefe Foundation. While the school is still waiting for the Microsoft grant for new Central Processing Units (CPUs) for room 206, the computers in room 306 have recently been fixed and are ready for use.

It is easy to point out the problems with technology at BLS, but without technology aids like Ms. Meany or Ms. DeMore, the situation would be even worse, as it is at various other high schools in the city. Considering that the textbook budget for the school, which also funds computers, has been cut in half, it is remarkable that the school still has functioning computers, let alone the ability to buy new ones. It is thanks to the careful planning for new devices and the recycling of the old 17-inch monitors (along with the efforts of Ms. Meany, Ms. DeMore, and their assistants) that this school has a working technology system.

So next time you sit down to use a computer that doesn't work and you just want to complain, think again. The administration is doing all it can to fix these technological problems, and it doesn't need constant criticism from students who don't fully understand everything that's going on. For now, just wait the five minutes that it takes to load your page, and be thankful that our school even has functional computers.

Bad Teachers at BLS

BY JOE GRAHAM, I  
STAFF WRITER

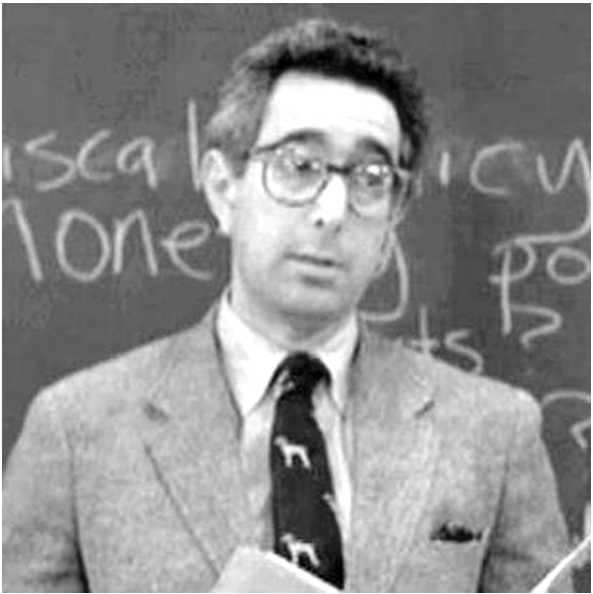
Boston Latin School's mission statement claims that it "seeks to ground its students in a contemporary classical education as preparation for successful college studies... and a rewarding life." Indeed, our school does have many great classes led by determined and hardworking teachers that help to prepare us for higher education. However, the sad truth is that not all teachers at our school are determined and hardworking, and there are actually quite a few that are more detrimental towards our education than they are beneficial.

One thing I've noticed is that sometimes "teaching" doesn't seem to be part of a master's vocabulary. A few years ago, while taking a certain language class, I learned the horrible truth that some teachers don't actually teach. This class simply consisted of the teacher assigning students work from a textbook that was rarely checked. Most students would simply ignore the class work and chat amongst themselves. Of course, no one would ever have to complain about being overworked or about any sort of unfair policies, but a teacher who doesn't teach is, undoubtedly, a bad teacher. My fondest memory of this class is the time when a school official entered the room and the class fell silent

as the teacher began writing on the board and teaching a lesson. The class returned to normal, however, as soon as the official left the room.

I spoke with a student who was frustrated with one of her teachers with a similar lack of concern for her students' education. This teacher has spent many classes lecturing her students about efficiency and time

management for the entire period, and often takes up to fifteen minutes to pass out a worksheet. She gives lessons on how to prevent swine flu and how to train seeing-eye dogs, but never on the subject that she's actually supposed to be teaching. When students do well on their tests (because of the time that they've personally put into teaching the material to themselves), she raves about her amazing teaching skills and her wonderful ability to communicate with



IT'S LIKE WE'RE IN FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF

her students. She also spends her classes depreciating the music department and telling the students about her personal devotion to music, which, by the way, has absolutely nothing to do with her subject.

Another student cited a similar experience with bad teaching. She described a teacher in the language department who assigns two to three tests a week with

abnormally large amounts of homework. When students aren't being tested, they might be given the answers to the previous night's homework--answers without explanation. The class has barely made any progress in their textbook due to the thirteen tests given in the first term. With all the tests, presentations and homework, the schedule was much too full for actual lessons. Not only does this teacher seem to

have a complete lack of concern about the students' education, but she also rebukes students for their failures and has even made students cry during class.

Unfortunately, these stories are only the tip of the iceberg. In fact, it is apparent that quite a few of the teachers at Boston Latin School (many of them only still teaching because they are protected by the tenure system) fail to actually educate their students. Though the Boston Teacher's Union may have good intentions in wanting to secure the jobs of its members, some teachers are just not as devoted to their careers as they used to be, and the education of students is suffering as a result.

It's clear that there are bad teachers at BLS. Whether they enjoy picking on students or dislike the very thought of teaching, these individuals are making the experience at BLS worse for students and are hurting our "contemporary classical education." Up to this point, the administration has failed to properly address the repeated complaints of students about our school's worst teachers, but they cannot ignore such an important problem forever. They have to do something about how teachers are evaluated or at least address why these teachers are retaining their jobs. Perhaps it would help to consult the people most directly involved with the teachers: the students.



FORUM

# Do You Support Menino's Reelection?



YES

NO

By **KATIE WANG, IV**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

He’s known affectionately as Mumbles. He used to be an insurance salesman, hailing from Hyde Park.

16 years after he rose to power, Mayor Thomas Menino established his place in Boston history, overcoming his most cutthroat challenge against Michael F. Flaherty Jr., leading by 57 percent to 42 percent of the votes. He is going to extend his reign over Boston for yet another term, making it his fifth term in office.

Menino claimed his victory in a triumphant speech before hundreds of supporters. Throughout his 16 years leading Boston, the mayor still kept his humble roots, declaring “we haven’t made history with this election, but we will, with what we create of it.” The “urban mechanic” poked fun at himself, freely admitting, “I’m not good looking, I can’t speak well, I’m not smart. I’m driven.”

Boston is a city rooted deep in culture and tradition. We need someone who understands the city and someone who knows what it takes to build a better future for it. Menino is the perfect candidate for this job.

Some say that we need “new blood” in the mayoral office, and that he has served too long. Well, he’s been the mayor of Boston for 16 years for a reason. Why else would he have been elected five times in a row? Though criticized for his “aversion to technology,” and “his governing style,” Menino’s dedication to improving the city neighborhoods certainly showed, as 60 percent of Boston’s residents claim that they have met the mayor himself. While Flaherty and Sam Yoon, nicknamed “Floon” together, declared themselves to be the next generation of Boston leaders, Menino stuck to one message: the city has improved under his leadership, and he wants to “keep moving Boston forward.”

So since the city of Boston has progressed so much under him, why change?

While Mayor Menino has support from much of the Boston community, he remains a down to earth man. Bishop Gideon Thompson, who endorsed Menino for re-election, states that a great deal of his campaign was devoted to “bringing neighborhoods in our city together.” On the mayor’s personal website, which he calls the “Mumbles Menino Website,” he opens up and allows people to see his real personality, including charming anecdotes and witty comments. Most of the time, the “common folk” are not able to see the genuine personality of candidates, as they are always delivering speeches and bearing a professional air about them. With Mayor Menino, however, this is what makes him special. As I read about Menino in the newspapers, watched videos of him cutting ribbons in local suburbs and attending luncheons that the local “soccer moms” put together, I seem to grasp a more personal sense of him—in an inviting and endearing way. I’m not trying to say that Flaherty or Yoon aren’t good people—they’re both intelligent, and have admirable personalities, but they just don’t seem to linger in my mind as much as the current mayor.

Mayor Menino has taken initiatives to improve Boston’s environment and decrease pollution, first teaming up to convert all cabs into hybrid vehicles by 2015. He has also promised to “strengthen civil spaces in all of Boston’s neighborhoods,” promising that, “in Mattapan, we will break ground on a new public library. In West Roxbury, we are building a new playground at Hynes Field. And at our public high schools, we’re in the midst of a multi-year commitment to upgrade our athletic fields. City-wide, we are improving the places that put the life in city life.”

All Boston citizens wish for the same thing—for Boston as a city and as a community to join together and move forward. In partnership with Mayor Thomas Menino, we, as Boston residents, can collaborate to make Boston a better place to live.

By **NICK PARKER, I**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I, like many of my fellow Americans, am frequently pleased to find that my political agenda is aligned with the preservation of the principles of democracy. On the whole, I am happy with the way the structure of government handles issues that matter to me. I can be quite sure that no matter who is in charge, the issues of both the majority and the minority will be heard. Democracy is perfect for that.

Many would argue that Mayor Thomas M. Menino has done a good job maintaining a basic level of adequacy, and they would be right. Menino has also committed himself to improving education, which directly benefits all public schools students. But when it comes to the long term future of our government, Menino’s record is meaningless.

Allow me to add some troubling information about Menino’s tenure as Mayor of Boston. This will be his historic fifth term, but despite his reputation as the “education mayor,” Menino has not lowered the dropout rate from public schools. Moreover, he frequently references fictional statistics showing that the dropout rate has decreased by more than 30 percent. He has stressed time after time, debate after debate, that he lacks fundamental speaking skills which scientists have found in even the most illiterate of chimpanzees. Menino has done nothing but keep the city essentially the same since his assumption of the mayoral office, and yet he still holds a consistent monopoly on the vote.

Menino runs this city with absolute power. He has stuffed city political bodies full of allies and colleagues, sometimes to the point of nepotism. It is lucky for many of us that the man who holds the city in the palm of his hand has a big stake in the improvement of the quality of education. We are just docile enough to refuse change.

Ultimately, the Boston mayoral race was not about the views of the candidates. Flaherty and Menino both have charter school plans. They are both committed to job creation. They both want to combat violence. The one thing that sets Flaherty apart from Menino is that he is not Menino.

However satisfactory or even effective a leader may be, in a democratic society one person should not lead a city for over 16 years. When a long-term, monarchical leader remains in power, perspective is rejected, opposition is silenced, and debate stagnates. We have to see past our short term satisfaction on our issues and look to the long term goal of preserving a workable political structure for our city. The election of Mayor Menino benefited me because he has a slightly greater chance of solving problems with education than Councilor Flaherty. His election, however, also upheld the precedent of an unconquerable Boston mayor.

Menino’s corrupt rule drove Flaherty to oppose the strong mayor system and support a mayoral term limits legislation. Without Menino’s dominance over the city, what will drive candidates to weaken one of the strongest mayoral offices in the country? If Menino chooses not to run for his sixth term, no candidate will feel pressured to abolish our corrupt government. Prospective candidates won’t have to make promises about changing the status quo, and once they become incumbents, they will stay in office for decades and repeat the process.

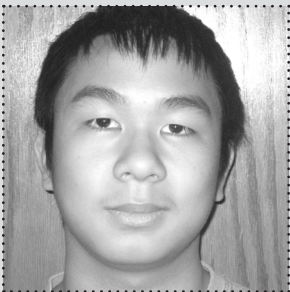
I’d rather support a leader who will improve Boston for the future than a leader who might take care of immediate issues and certainly drive the final nail into the coffin of the Boston government. The fact that Bostonians showed stronger support for short-term solutions than long-term change makes me concerned for those who will live and work in our city in the years to come. My only hope is that Boston will someday protect its future citizens and see beyond their desire for immediate gratification in favor of a sustainable political system.

## Forum Question

Do you support Menino's Reelection?



“Yeah, I voted for him.”  
—Helena Iftica, Class I



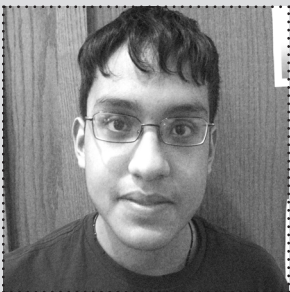
“Yes, because he's awesome.”  
—David Ko, Class II



“Yeah, sure. I don't mind him and he's obviously doing a great job since he's had the position for so long.”  
—Morgan Reid-Spaulding, Class III



“No, because as Obama said, we need change.”  
—Eva Poon, Class IV



“I think his reelection is a great idea. He has done many great things for education, he is trustworthy.”  
—Kenneth Cruz, Class V



“No, he's been in office for way too long.”  
—Mariel Ehrlich, Class VI



# FORUM

## Tardy Detention

BY NHU LE, IV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Boston Latin School has always had a harsh tardy policy. If a student is tardy, he earns one tardy detention, held at 7:00A.M. in room 115 the next morning. Every day that the student doesn't show up, another tardy detention is added to this count. This year, the administration has relaxed the policy. When a student is tardy, he now has three days to serve the tardy detention.

This change, however, doesn't seem to be enough for some, as a group of students has started a movement to move tardy detentions after school. Students who agree can sign an online petition or join the Facebook group, "BLS for changing tardy detentions to Afterschool!!" So far, there are 100 signatures on the petition and over 100 members in the Facebook group. The organizers are even trying to get support from the BLS Student Council.

This is ridiculous.

To suggest that tardy detention be moved after school is simply not a good idea. Tardy detention is a punishment; students dread it because it is a pain to get up half an hour earlier in the morning. If it wasn't in the morning, tardy detention wouldn't have the same effect, and a greater number of students

would be late.

Also, one should not forget that tardy detention is punishment for being tardy. When tardy detention is held in the morning, it forces the student to get to school earlier than usual. The administration then proves to the student that he can in fact wake up early, and that there's no excuse for being tardy. After all, a good punishment should not only penalize a student but also discourage him from further offenses. In this case, morning tardy detention proves to be a better punishment than after school detention.

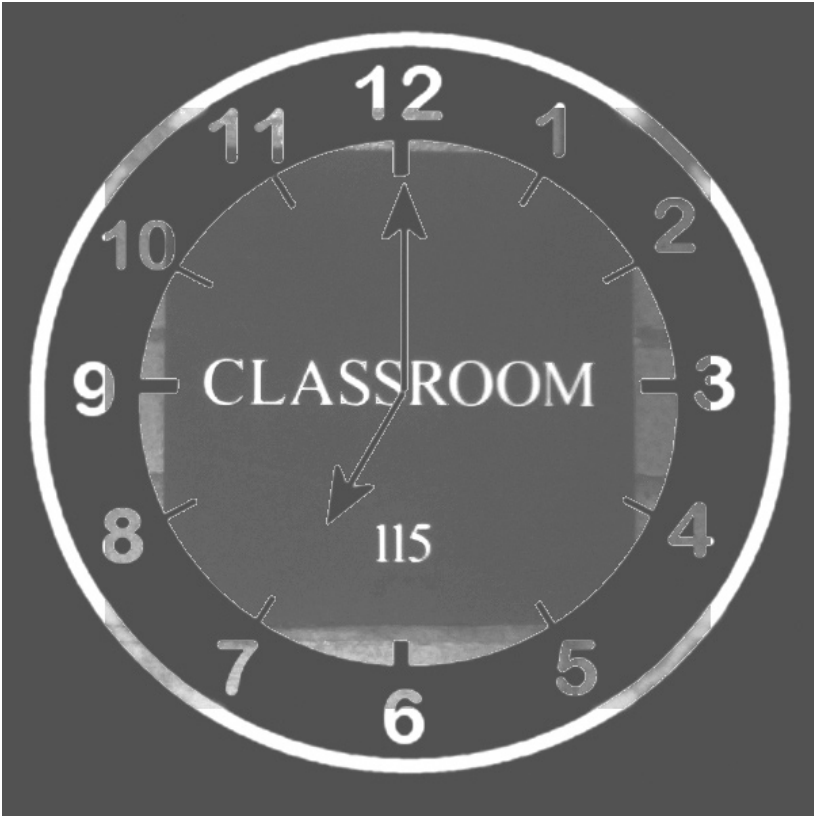
I understand that being late is sometimes not the student's fault. In the case of late buses or late trains, the tardy may be excused if the delay is verified. Personal excuses, however, such as a car breaking down, a sibling running late, or a parent oversleeping,

are not excused by the administration. I agree that this is unfair; but as high school students, it should be clear to us at this point in our lives that sometimes life isn't fair. One should simply serve

every day. It's really not a big deal to lose half an hour of sleep. On nights before tardy detentions, all a student must do is either set the alarm earlier or go to sleep earlier.

No one can deny that tardy detention is a pain. Just think back to those freezing December mornings when you had to drag yourself out of bed at 6:00A.M. to get to tardy detention. But the administration finally understands that it's simply impossible to get up on time for detention some days; this is why the old policy was changed. Now, students are allowed three days to make up the detention. This provides plenty of time to arrange a ride with their parents, look up the public transportation schedule or plan around unpredictable New England weather. "I cannot possibly make morning tardy detention" is no longer a valid excuse for a student who lives in Boston and usually arrives at 7:30A.M.

A punishment is a punishment, and this one happens to be warranted and useful. In my opinion, the desire to move tardy detention after school is just a case of wanting to have your cake and eat it too.



TARDY DETENTION STARTS AT 7 O'CLOCK, AND RIGHTFULLY SO

tardy detention and move on.

Many students complain that they cannot wake up that early. In reality, they can, or else they would be late ev-

## Wiki Put to the Test

BY JAKE ZHANG, IV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Wikipedia's official motto is, "The free encyclopedia that anyone can edit." This concept of free, unobstructed editing has cast a dismal shadow over the popular online encyclopedia. Four years ago, there was a study conducted by *Nature*, a well-respected science and medicine journal, which compared Wikipedia to the pre-eminent Encyclopedia Britannica. Before I reveal the findings, I will offer my own experience as a former Wikipedian.

I began to write articles for Wikipedia in the eighth grade when I, like many other contributing writers and editors to the encyclopedia, had too much time on my hands. To this day, I have published seven articles on various subjects: two on my former schools, one on my former rival school, two on fictional countries, one on an out-of-print book series, and one on a subject that I am too embarrassed to mention in a school newspaper. Of these seven, four have been deleted, two are in the process of being deleted, and one was the subject of an edit war that lasted about a month, which banned me temporarily from the website.

That was more than a year ago, however, and I have since gained considerably more respect for Wikipedia and its editors. I decided to conduct an experiment on the reliability of the encyclopedia, and how soon it could locate and correct an incorrect fact. My first victim was Barack Obama. The day was November 4, exactly a year after he had been elected as the 44th President of the United States. In tribute to his historic accomplishment, I decided to vandalize his Wikipedia article by incorrectly

describing him as a Republican instead of a Democrat. I initially expected the mistake to go unnoticed for longer than a week. Surprisingly, after four minutes, Obama was Democratic again. It took Wikipedia even less time to realize that Boston Latin School's newspaper was not The New York Times (which is obviously wrong, since the *Argo* is much better). It took the online editors the same amount of time to realize that Alaska is not actually a country, but rather a state.

What have we learned from this experiment? People are seemingly less interested in Barack Obama than Alaska and BLS. People are also not very kind to students who vandalize Wikipedia articles for the sake of scientific research. But above all, Wikipedia has a good-natured community of writers and editors who devote their free time to benefit the easy access of knowledge, and are quick to address issues with the reliability of the encyclopedia. Is it a legitimate online school resource? I would have to agree that it is, since getting facts from Wikipedia is like getting homework assignments from Facebook—who would lie to a fellow classmate about the due date of a Latin project?

Finally, the results from the 2005 study by *Nature* indicate that Wikipedia averages four errors per article, while Encyclopedia Britannica averages three errors per article. Also, there are approximately 75,000 active contributors (excluding myself), all of whom are unpaid, on Wikipedia. Britannica has about 4,000 employed writers and editors. Wikipedia's articles were found to be generally longer: its article on rival Britannica, for example, has about 8,000 words. Britannica's article on Wikipedia has exactly 130.



WIKIPEDIA SURPRISINGLY PASSED

## Mix-It-Up Yay!

BY ESHE SHERLEY, III  
STAFF WRITER

The subject of Mix-It-Up Day has been hotly debated over the last few weeks, and now that it has finally happened, it is time to reflect. Personally, I felt that the event had entirely good intentions. It is also important to recognize all the hard work that the students in the R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Initiative did to even pull off Mix-It-Up Day in such a short period of time.

On the whole, Mix-It-Up Day was both a success and a failure. What plagued Mix-It-Up Day was the unclear and inconsistent information given to the students. The people writing articles for the *Argo* did not have entirely true information and therefore mislead its readers. Also, many teachers were misinformed. Some thought wristbands had already been distributed so they didn't pass out the ones that they received while others thought that they have the option of giving the wristbands out if they didn't like the idea of Mix-It-Up Day. Most people—including myself—thought the day was optional when it was in fact mandatory.

Another problem with Mix-It-Up had been anticipated all week: noncompliance. At lunch, there were plenty of people who had wristbands and didn't sit in the proper section. Teachers attempted to find these kids and relocate them to their assigned area. During third lunch, however, I saw plenty of kids sitting in their usual seats. Moreover, since some teachers didn't comply, some students didn't even have wristbands. I even heard complaints about sections filling up, and because of this, people who would have participated didn't.

There were, however, some posi-

tive aspects of Mix-It-Up Day. Many people realized that "mixing it up" wasn't so bad. Getting people to come out of their shells and talk to you can be painfully awkward, but also very



MIX-IT-UP DAY: MIXED, BUT SUCCESSFUL

rewarding in the end. During a forum after Mix-It-Up Day, I heard numerous stories about seniors initiating conversations with sixies. Some sixies were really engaged, while others seemed to be scared of the upperclassmen. Still, I think that the effort probably helped sixies realize that not all upperclassmen are out to get them. Teachers commented that it was the time when sixies were most interactive yet; usually they eat together but hardly talk.

People felt a little violated because it seemed like their lunch time was being taken away. The leaders of the R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Initiative noted that it can be hard to get lunch, eat, find somewhere new to sit, and then mix it up all within twenty-two minutes. Others seemed to not understand why it was necessary to hold an event like Mix-It-Up Day. Well, it's because everybody judges and gossips about each other, whether they're conscious of it or not. In the end, that's why Mix-It-Up Day was a success. It made us think about how our community treats us, and how we treat each other.



# A & E

## Interview: Ms. Crewdson & Mr. Charig

BY TORI COYNE, I  
& TADESH INAGAKI, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

**1. What makes the arts department different at your schools now?**

**Crewdson:** “There are five of us. It is like a nice small family! Everyone at BB&N is very kind and fun to work with. The department is a real team, and we work together quite a bit on shows.”

**Charig:** “For starters, I’m technically the only music teacher at the school. The band person (my boss) only comes down for one period a day. So I spend my time with the drama person there and the other specialist teachers, the shop guy, and the art people. It’s a really nice environment.”

**2. How is the curriculum there?**

**Crewdson:** “There is a lot of freedom to do what I want. Right now, I am doing a show



MS. CHRISTA CREWDSON

with the 8th grade that is totally created by them and is a piece called 16 in 60. It is a multi-media piece that involves video, music, and live theatre. 16 pieces in 60 minutes.”

**Charig:** “Well, I would say that the general music class I’m teaching is more of a broad spectrum class, designed to cover all musical areas, whereas the 7th grade class I taught at BLS was very much directed at trying to even the playing field, getting all of the students up to speed on reading music.”

**3. Is there anything at your new school similar to what you ran at Boston Latin School? If so, what are those events like at your new school compared to those at BLS?**

**Crewdson:** “We are doing the new Broadway Musical 13. We are one of the first schools to get the rights!”

**Charig:** “Nothing is really similar. It’s a regional school, which means that it’s bigger and draws from towns, which are pretty far away. I’m doing one after school chorus, which is audition only. It rehearses one day a week for one hour. I’ll be doing the school musical, which goes up in March. I haven’t had a concert yet. The Winter Concert for us is in late January [or early] February, so there’s extra time to prepare. Plus, the concert is only chorus, so it’s only an hour long.”

**4. What classes/grades do you teach?**

**Crewdson:** “7 and 8 Theatre. My classes are improv, one act comedy, the musical 16 in 60, and I will be doing a film class as well.”

**Charig:** “7th and 8th grade chorus, 7th grade general music.”

**5. What are the students like? What is the atmosphere like?**



MR. CHRISTOPHER CHARIG

**Crewdson:** “They are very smart and have been really great to teach. Very creative! The atmosphere is relaxed and fun, and there is a ton of support for the students.”

**Charig:** “The school is rigorous, but more laid back. The parents seem very nice and dedicated.”

**6. What do you like most about your new school?**

**Crewdson:** “The faculty has been so welcoming. I also love the freedom the students are given. The arts are an important part of the school day and the atmosphere in general.”

**Charig:** “I feel as though I can concentrate on just a few things, rather than feel over-committed to many. This allows me to refine how I do what I do.”

**7. What do you miss most about BLS?**

**Crewdson:** “I miss the theatre company kids!”

**Charig:** “My students and close col-

leagues. I still talk to many of them.”

**8. Are there any BLS events you’re coming to/looking forward to?**

**Crewdson:** “I hope to make it to the fall show!”

**Charig:** “It’s hard for me, in a lot of ways. My schedule is lighter, but that means I take more work home. I hope I can come and see the musical! I will definitely come to graduation unless it’s the same day as my graduation here in Acton. I feel really bad about missing the Show Choir Festival, but I was rehearsing all this past weekend and just did a concert with Arlington-Belmont Chorale this past Monday night.”

**9. What is your life like now? Is it any different because of the change to your new school?**

**Crewdson:** “My little girl, Callie, is almost ten months old, so life is very different!”

**Charig:** “Teaching is less stressful, but more tiring, if that makes sense. I do feel that when I leave, I have a stronger awareness of my accomplishments. The creativity at BLS was different. I did a lot more arranging, which was VERY rewarding. But I think I’m doing more good, vocally, for these kids. I’m catching a lot of vocal problems before they become bad habits.”

**10. Will you visit any time soon?**

**Crewdson:** “Hope to!”

**11. How is the baby?**

**Charig:** “Insane. She’s been hitting the number pad while I’ve been writing all of this. She takes up all of my time and thoughts these days, as it should be. But I still miss all of you kids at BLS!”

## 2012 Floods into Theaters

BY KATIE STOTLER, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every few months, an end-of-the-world movie is released, filled with doom, despair, and a predictable dash of hope thrown in to keep the viewers from becoming entirely depressed. The most recent apocalyptic movie, *2012*, was written and directed by Ronald Emmerich, (director of *The Day After Tomorrow* and *Independence Day*). *2012* stars John Cusack as Jackson Curtis, the kind-hearted, optimistic full-time writer and part-time chauffeur whose mission is to save his family and anyone else he meets. After taking his two children on a road trip to Yellowstone National Park, Curtis is informed about the imminent destruction of the earth from eccentric radio host Charlie Frost (a wonderfully cast Woody Harrelson, still fresh in our minds from

his witty role in *Zombieland*), and rushes to save his ex-wife and her current boyfriend. The group travels through Los Angeles in Curtis’ limousine, narrowly escaping every collapsing sky-scraper and crumpling road in order to escape from the city and return to Yellowstone for more information. From Frost, Curtis learns about the Chinese Arks, a far-fetched idea that drives the characters to continue their hopeful quest for salvation. Traveling from Los Angeles to Las Vegas to China, the gang finally arrives at their destination, desperate to get a place on the ark and survive the terrible calamity.

Emmerich takes a daring risk in casting soft-eyed Cusack, who does not have that customary “tough guy” persona in an action-packed disaster film. Nevertheless, Cusack delivers, and our hearts go out to him every time his life is in danger – which is 98 percent of the film. Although none

of the characters are particularly muscular or armed with a weapon, we find that the compassionate and intelligent people are the ones who survive, while the pompous and dim-witted end up thousands of feet under water. The world is informed of the imminent devastation by Adrian Helmsley (Chiwetel Ejiofor), the epitome of the empathetic sweetheart who has no qualms about emphasizing his intelligence and influential job at every opportunity. As Curtis once suggested in his only book, all of humanity opens up their arms and saves whomever they can – a happy ending for the idealist in all of us.

Unfortunately, *2012* is filled with more plot holes than car crashes and deaths. Putting the countless coincidences aside, it is probable that Curtis and his band of survivors can avoid all of the disasters. Emmerich creates just enough characters to keep the storyline interest-

ing and introduces each person in a way that keeps the plot moving fluidly. At the end of the movie, however, he leaves them high and dry (in the literal sense, buried in the ocean). The boyfriend of Curtis’ ex-wife, who plays a major role in flying the plane to safety on several occasions, is forgotten in the end, as if this prominent savior is unimportant. The movie clearly explains what happens to the earth leading up to December 21, 2012, but it does not adequately explain how the survivors rebuild their world after the apocalypse. If a logical plot is what you are looking for, it would be wiser to skip this suspenseful, catastrophe-filled two-and-a-half hour movie. However, if you are interested in sitting through a crash-and-burn film with too many lovable characters thrown in, then *2012* is a good choice. Let’s just hope that the plot holes do not make you *too* paranoid about the end of the world.

## Horoscopes

BY BOBBY FITZPATRICK, III  
& B. KIM, III  
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATES

**ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr.19)** Try being more amicable; although your element may be fire, no one will be “Burnin’ Up” for you this month.

**TAURUS (Apr.20-May 20)** Instead of facing your fears, avoid them at all costs.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21)** Justin Bieber may be cutesy-wootsy, but a fifteen year

old who looks like he’s nine is just plain freaky.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)** You should stop listening to Christina Aguilera in your closet. Your life isn’t that bad.

**LEO (July 23-Aug.22)** Being loud and lion-hearted will NOT come in handy this week. Big Brother (your floormaster) is watching you.

**VIRGO (Aug.23-Sept. 22)** Try not to be

such a martinet this week; a walk on the wild side will do you some good.

**LIBRA (Sept.23-Oct. 22)** Wet floor signs are there for a reason.

**SCORPIO (Oct.23-Nov.21)** Your hunger for power will only be overpowered by your hunger for Thanksgiving turkey.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov.22-Dec. 21)** Try to contain your free spirit today. THAT TEACHER is back again!

**CAPRICORN (Dec.22-Jan.19)** Avoid Farmville at all costs. Despite your methodical qualities, you won’t be harvesting any time soon.

**AQUARIUS (Jan.20-Feb.18)** Sell the Uggs! Seriously, they won’t be “in” for much longer.

**PISCES (Feb.19-Mar.20)** Avoid being the butt of jokes; your clever words won’t be so clever today.



Spotlight  
Ada Lin



By OLIVIA SCHWOB, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Boston Latin School is hard work, and no one who goes here has any illusions about that. I have seen numerous classmates dissolve under that pressure into big stressed-out messes, give up their sleep and free time to the gods of homework, and sacrifice everything but their humanity to stay afloat. In this sort of sink-or-swim situation, though, there are always a few people who manage to walk on water. Ada Lin is one of them.

Don't get me wrong. Over the course of our three-year friendship, I've seen Ada quite stressed out. And who wouldn't be? As many of you probably know, she seems to be an omnipresent leader in everything she does. Orchestra, Amnesty International, Science Olympiad, *The Register*, *Catapulta*, and the Ward Fellowship are only some of the activities demanding her time. What makes Ada special is that she does these things not for an edge nor for her resume, but because she really cares. Her passions are so widespread that she can be enthusiastic about anything from public health activists, obscure German philosophers, Russian Romantic composers to modern art. All of the clubs she participates in have reached new standards of quality and innovation, especially Amnesty International and *The Register*, for which she has toiled tirelessly over the past years and in which she now has a well-earned leadership position.

As she attacks this seemingly insurmountable mountain of commitment, she maintains her awesome personality. She is always there when one needs witty banter, support, commiseration, erudition, or sincere friendliness. You cannot walk down the hall without seeing her pause to chat with a teacher about James Joyce or to ask some underclassmen how they are doing. Once, a younger student asked us where the main office was while standing a few feet down the hall from it. I, being less sympathetic than Ada, dissolved into silent laughter. She, however, escorted the youngster down the hall, inquiring as to his name, his classes, and how he was liking BLS, all the while maintaining a straight face and a sincere interest. This sort of daily occurrence has given her the deserved reputation of being sweet, helpful and compassionate.

I got to know Ada well when we worked on our first Seevak project. I found her to be hardworking, sincere and incredibly motivated about human rights. I would venture to say that, of all her activities, Amnesty International is her favorite—her baby and brainchild. As we became human rights buddies, going to symposiums and summits, I saw a hidden side of Ada's personality. She is down-to-earth, artistic, and unexpectedly funny.

Though Ada's accomplishments are many and her contributions to the school are innumerable, her true benevolence is the most important contribution she has made and continues to make to the school environment. Being a good person can be hard work at BLS, yet Ada gives it 250 percent.

A & E  
A Smidgeon of Fail

By NELSON ARNOUS, II  
STAFF WRITER

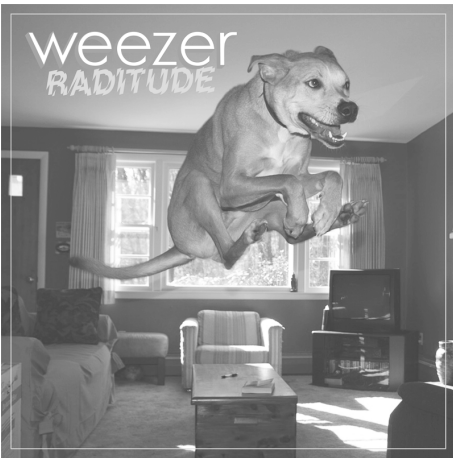
November 3 marked the release of Weezer's seventh full length album, *Raditude*. Let us clear things up right away. This is not the Weezer you know from *Blue Album* or *Pinkerton*—not by a long shot. If you are looking for quality rock music, you are ten years too late. The entirety of *Raditude*

feels like a shallow attempt by Rivers Cuomo, the band's front man and songwriter, to force his way into the spotlight, at the expense of any musical dignity the band may have left. At points, I was convinced that this was some sort of gag-album, a satire of the state of the music industry today.

But slowly, the painful truth dawned on me: this was just bad.

The album opens with the single, "If You're Wondering If I Want You To", a poppy and catchy song. Although the story of a perfect summer love has very little depth to it, "If You're Wondering" compensates with a strong hook and upbeat rhythm. Listening to this first song, I began to have high hopes for the rest of *Raditude*.

Sadly, it is all downhill from here. The second track, "I'm Your Daddy," is typical pop-rock, and thoroughly forgettable. As we will hear repeated in the track, "I'm Your Daddy" features the hook we have all heard before and the



RADICALLY DIFFERENT

lyrics, painfully lacking in creativity, do little to help.

The fourth song on *Raditude*, "Can't Stop Partying," really hits home how far the band has deviated from their original track. Weezer's first release, *Blue Album* included songs like "In the Garage", where Cuomo sings about the sanctuary of playing Dungeons and Dragons in a garage, singing "In the garage/ I feel safe/

No one laughs about my ways." In drastic contrast, "Can't Stop Partying" is about the band's apparent new, more exciting lifestyle: "Monday to Sunday I hit all the clubs/ And everybody know me when I pull up/ I got the real big posse with me, yeah I'm deep/ And if you lookin' for me I'm in VIP."

The song features Lil' Wayne, and the Weezer/Weezy collaboration speaks volumes about Weezer's new obsession with becoming mainstream. Although it is a radically different form of music than we may be accustomed to from Weezer, "Can't Stop Partying" is actually good, if you look at it for what it is: a pop song.

A few songs later in *Raditude*, partying is again the main topic of the songs. In "Let It All Hang Out," Cuomo sings about relieving the stress of his life, singing "I'm going out with my homies, and we're gonna let it all hang out." It just sounds wrong. Weezer's vocals simply do not fit with words like "homies," as much as the band would love to change this fact.

This Is It "Sizzles and Simmers"

By RACHEL TRIPP, II  
A&E EDITOR

"This is it," stated a confident and smiling Michael Jackson while announcing his upcoming tour at a press conference in London. "This is the final curtain call."

Unfortunately, as everyone who has been exposed to sunlight in the past year knows, the curtain fell sooner than expected. Jackson passed away on June 25, 2009, just days before the scheduled July 8th opening of the *This Is It* concert series, a sold-out 50-concert sensation planned for London during the summer of 2009. What is left is what some would call an extraordinary documentary: a rushed and ragged monument to Jackson's work and the musical legacy he left behind, fittingly entitled *This Is It*.

*This Is It* is both a reverent homage to an iconic pop sensation, as well as a haunting and semi-morbid shadow of what could have been. The movie opens on an almost overly worshipful note, with prospective dancers' tearful declarations of the inspirational impact that the then-living Jackson had on them (okay, maybe they just want the job, but their acting abilities leave them sounding genuine—even to a skeptic like myself).

Directed by Kenny Ortega, whose perpetual sucking up to Jackson left me liking him less than I had before seeing this movie, *This Is It* is composed from over 100 hours of taped rehearsals in preparation for the tour. Ortega has described the documentary as "honest, raw, unguarded, right up until the day he died." This is definitely true. The unadorned rehearsal footage, artfully edited together to create complete song sequences in all their toe-tapping glory, results in a movie

that is unapologetic, straightforward, and completely devoid of smoke and mirrors. In contrast to my expectations, the movie does not sugar-coat Jackson in a superfluous flow of reverence, nor does it place too



THIS IS THE FINAL CURTAIN CALL.

much focus on his death.

*This Is It* gets the audience closer to the real Michael Jackson than any other previously documented portrayal. The rehearsals draw heavily from some of his older hits, and in a wise and obviously well thought-out decision, Ortega focuses on the re-creation of about 12 of

Next up in this parade of clichéd and one dimensional songs is "Love Is the Answer." It is a disgustingly sappy song, filled with horribly uninspired lyrics, like, "There will come a day/ When we transcend our pain/ Until that day, take it easy on yourself." I would not be the least bit surprised to hear this generic piece of nonsense appear in a Hallmark card in the near future.

If compared with Weezer's past albums, *Raditude* is nothing less than a massive let down. Wit, creative lyrics, catchy hooks, and meaningful songs are tossed out the window, and instead, the band has opted to move over to the pop music genre. Song topics go no deeper than parties and the mall, showcased by the brilliantly titled "In the Mall." However, even as a pop album, *Raditude* fails miserably. Of the 14 total tracks in the two CD albums, no more than three are worth the time to listen. The album is most definitely not worth the \$9.99 it would cost to download, or the 20 minutes it would take to pirate. Save yourself the trouble and the disappointment, and stick with "If You're Wondering If I Want You To," "Can't Stop Partying," or perhaps "Run Over By A Truck." Just do not expect anything more than passably good pop songs.

The bottom line when looking at *Raditude* is that you have simply heard it all before—it is all recycled. I always find it obnoxious when fans complain that a musician is drifting away from their musical roots. That is what musicians are meant to do: evolve and push for innovation in their work. The only problem is that they are not pushing for innovation. Weezer has given up on creating real music, and instead, it aims to gain a little more than record sales with a smidgeon of fame.

Jackson's greatest hits: "Beat It," "Billie Jean," "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'," and "Black and White" are all there. These are all elaborately done ("Thriller" was to feature 3D effects) and accompanied by elaborate mini-movies, animated backgrounds, and video montages. We are also given a glimpse of Michael as a person as well, learning that he had a penchant for comparing song quality to food, demanding that his songs "sizzle, simmer and nourish."

I was skeptical about seeing this film, but I was definitely won over. My opinion of Jackson was both increased and marred: I was impressed with his ability to share the spotlight and work well with others, telling his guitarist: "Go for it, this is your solo. Take your time and ignore everything, this is your moment to shine," but I was also slightly disturbed by his need to whisper "I love you" to every unassuming cameraman, makeup artist, and sound guy brave enough to come within a ten-foot radius of his person. While the film definitely has the potential to

be construed as an outrageous example of posthumous exploitation and fail miserably, it succeeds in portraying Michael and his tour in both a respectful and an honest way. It's a bit much to claim that it's any kind of viable substitute for the live show, but *This Is It* a testament of a kind, and one that is no disgrace to Michael Jackson's memory.



# A & E When Aliens Attack

By ZOE CUIPYLO-WATKINS, II  
STAFF WRITER

At first glance, ABC's new show, *V*, looks like it is cursed to cancellation straight from the start—it's only premiering four episodes this year, and the audience will have to wait until March for the rest of it. That is a very long wait, even for a fanatic to handle. Nonetheless, I have a feeling that this show might be able to hold on to its audience because even after the first episode, it's just that good.

Based on the Eighties miniseries and television show of the same name, *V* begins with the arrival of spaceships hanging over 27 major cities around the world. This is followed by the first contact with an alien race that calls themselves the Visitors. Led by a serene woman by the name of Anna (Morena Baccarin), the Visitors graciously offer free health care and technological advances to the world in return for use of our resources. The major governments of Earth form diplomatic ties with the aliens, and all becomes well, or so it seems.

However, not everyone is so certain. Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent Erica Evans (Elizabeth Mitchell) and Father Jack Landry (Joel Gretsch) both undergo a bizarre series of events and find themselves locked up in terrorist cells spouting conspiracy theories about the Visitors. Meanwhile, the Visitors themselves, with the help of news journalist Chad Decker (Scott Wolf), are working hard to sway governments toward diplomatic relations as the

world contemplates what to do about the spaceships looming ominously in the sky.

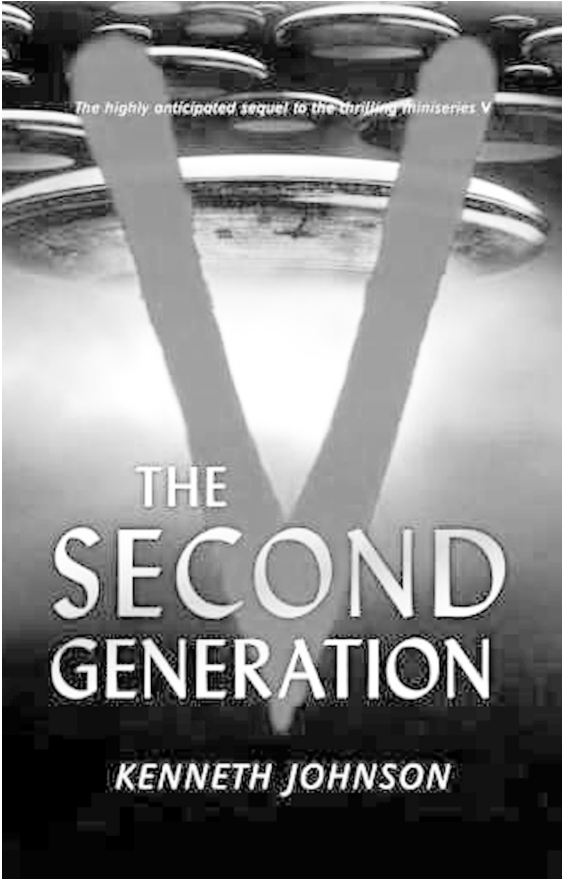
Mitchell has already proved her acting chops on *Lost*, and continues to shine in *V* as the gun-wielding smack-talking single-mom, Erica. Vying with her for the spotlight is Baccarin, who, as the alien leader, is both manipulative and sneaky, with a reassuring voice and big doe eyes that seem to fool...well, everyone. Like Decker, Wolf is almost as manipulative as Baccarin, with a charming attitude and a movie-star smile. Gretsch may be the weakest link on the show, but that is not saying much—at the end of the hour, his wide stares, coupled with his questions about God and the Visitors, still leave viewers pondering the true motives of the

aliens.

But I cannot truly praise the show's good qualities without mentioning the other end of the spectrum: the plot. While

the plot is, for the most part, interesting and inventive, you cannot help feeling like people may have accepted the aliens a bit too easily—probably part of ABC's need to get people hooked in the first five minutes. The show moves a little too fast and it is easy to get lost in it. At the end, however, everything begins to come together in true sci-fi fashion.

*V* has started with the highest ratings of any new show this season, giving it a leg up when it comes to its continued survival. While I will admit that I am a little wary about putting faith in a show that looks like it will end up breaking my heart, *V* may just be the show to make me start believing in network television again.



DON'T LOOK UP!

## Mad Men is No Fairy Tale

By SOPHIA WANG, I  
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

Ironically, the third season finale of *Mad Men* signals new beginnings.

This acclaimed show about the advertising business in the 1960s is noted for its emotional depth, character complexity and superb acting, all of which are present in this final episode. The episode starts with a revelation: Sterling Cooper, the ad agency where the main character, Don Draper (Jon Hamm) acts as creative director, is being sold once again. Now it is being absorbed into another company, and its employees are once again victims of ruthless capitalists and subjects of relentless changes. It is a plot twist that leaves us with an indignant sense of betrayal; however, the real twist comes later.

When he hears the news, Don approaches Bertram Cooper (Robert Morse), one of the two original owners, and proposes that they should buy back the agency. Don wants to fight. He says that he is sick of being “battered around like a ping pong ball,” and wants to make something of his own. One of the most intense moments in the episode is when Don's eyes are narrowed, and his voice is raised with idealism and passion. This is a moment when we can peek into Don's character, and see his need for independence and action. This moment also displays good acting from both Hamm and

Morse; the dialogue rolls off of each actor with ease and verisimilitude.

After convincing the other original owner, Roger Sterling (John Slattery), and supervisor Lane Pryce (Jared Harris), as well as others to join, a new agency rises from the horizon.

Although Don progresses in his professional life, his personal life takes a downturn. His wife, Betty (January Jones), is convinced that she does not love him

anymore, and falls in love with another man. The confrontation between Don and Betty is another memorable moment—Betty looks unkempt, yet defiant, as Don grabs her by the collar and accuses her of hypocrisy, while we hold our breath in the face of so much raw emotion. Suddenly, their baby son wakes up, and we are reminded that Don and Betty's impending divorce does not only involve them, but also their three children. As Don tells his two other children about the news, he holds his son in a tight embrace while his daughter walks off in tears. Not much is said in these heartbreaking scenes, and emotions are conveyed through body language alone. This is really the

greatness of *Mad Men*: the use of simple movements, looks, and silences convey much of the plot alone. These poignant moments of pain and hurt are amplified by the succinct dialogues. Again, the end spells another beginning, though a bit more dubious, for Don and Betty, who no longer need to hold onto their tattering marriage. However, can Don find happiness elsewhere, or is he doomed to wander, lost in various flings just as he had during their marriage? Is Betty finally happy with Henry Francis, the man whom she thinks she is in love with, or is she under the control of her own capriciousness and desires for freedom from a restricting marriage?

*Mad Men* is no fairy tale. All the characters have shades of good and evil in them, and nothing is clean cut. The show forces the audience to judge for themselves, and marvel at every development that makes the characters so alive, so human, and so imperfect. There is no promise of happy endings in *Mad Men* because the show is not about happy endings. The show is about finding happiness and getting lost in the process.

Towards the end of the third season, we see Don and his associates wheeling around in a makeshift office in a hotel lobby. We see Betty in a plane to Reno with Henry Francis to get a quick divorce. And finally, we see Don dragging his luggage out of a taxi to the door of his new apartment. These are all images that hint at new starts and new lives, and how these new beginnings will evolve and set an exciting premise for the next season. As the final scene fades, we are left to savor all that was and wonder about all that will be.



THIS PICTURE MARRIAGE ENDS WITH THE SEASON FINALE.

## Spotlight Elizabeth Vandorpe



By MICHAEL MACIEROWSKI, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The first time I spoke to Elizabeth, it was about the one thing that would connect us: music. It was our sophomore year, and we had just played with the senior band at the National Honor Society induction. Though this might not seem like an especially life-changing event, it revealed the friendly person beneath Elizabeth's quiet exterior. It was only after I joined Boston Latin School's Big Band that I discovered she was not only friendly, but also incredibly talented.

Elizabeth has been a card-carrying member of BLS' music program since sixie year and joined the Football Pep Band as a freshman. Then, as a sophomore, she decided to take her musical education further by learning the tenor saxophone and joining BLS Big Band. She later went on to take part in the City Music Program and was mentored by BLS alumnus Anant Pradhan. That same year, Big Band won the annual Berklee High School Jazz Competition, which began Elizabeth's recurring connection with Berklee; she took Saturday classes throughout the year and attended the summer Five-Week Program two years in a row. With that said, I do not think I can name many people who have devoted so much of their time to improving their art. Being able to do so much in only six years makes her an inspiration.

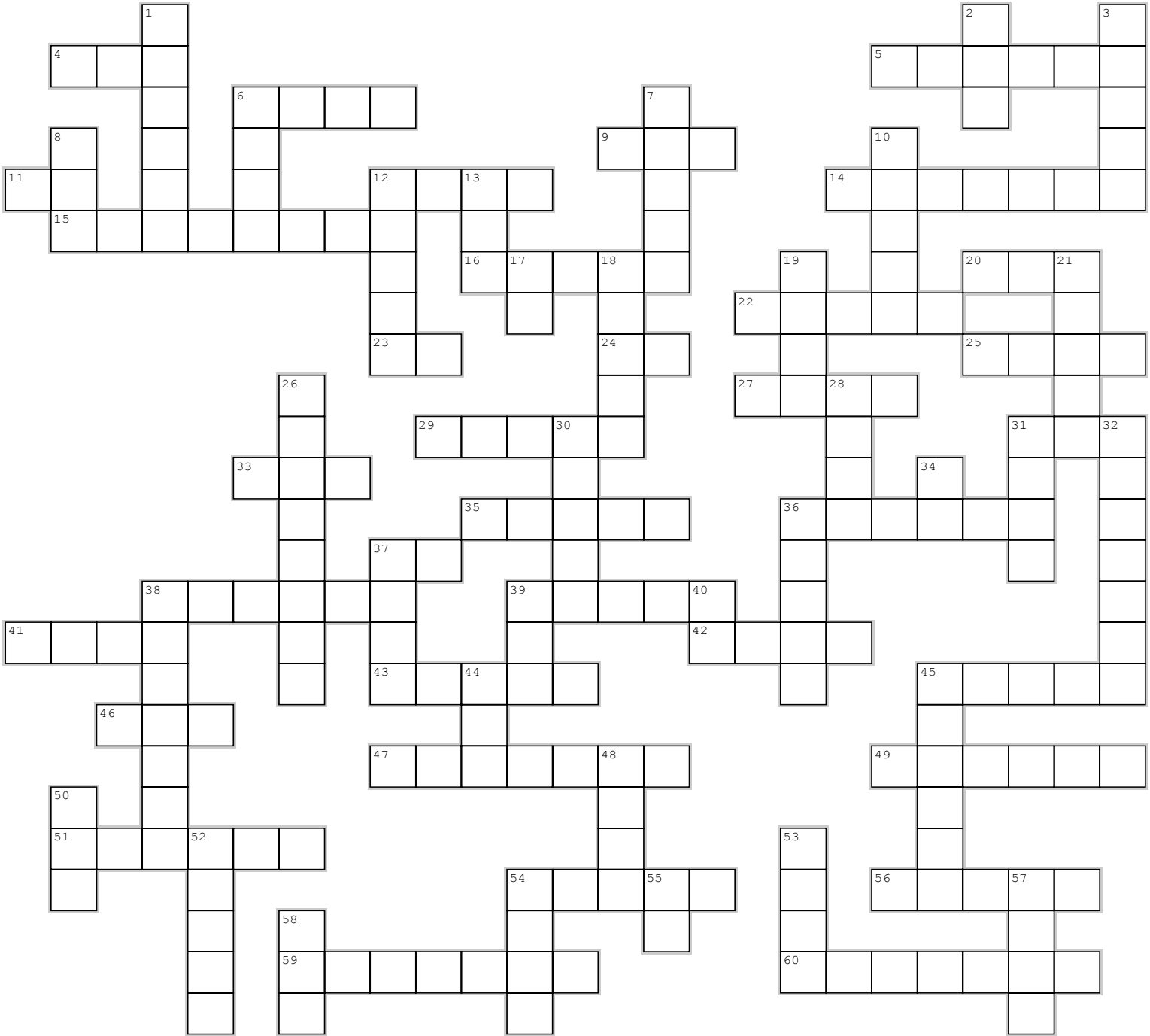
Last year, Elizabeth entered the Essentially Ellington Writing Contest, and wrote an essay about how jazz and democracy are linked. Not surprisingly, she won first place, having the honor of engraving a name into a seat in the Frederick P. Rose Hall. She also had the honor received a trip to New York to attend the Essentially Ellington Festival and various merchandise including recordings from the Jazz at Lincoln Center. Rather than asking for her own name to be engraved, she unselfishly requested that they engrave Mr. Paul Pitts' name instead.

In my opinion, Elizabeth is what one would classify as a “true musician.” Anyone can play a song, but it takes a true musician to manipulate music to fit their personality and unique style. Whether it is a fluid etude on the clarinet or a serene solo on the tenor sax, she always finds a way to implement both advanced technique and emotion.

At times, I still wonder what I have done to deserve a great friend like Elizabeth. For being such a talented individual, she is one of the most accepting and approachable people I have ever met and truly my dearest friend.

Although I am worried that things may change as we go off to college, I am certain that we will always share a love for music, particularly with jazz. In her winning essay on jazz, entitled “An American Music,” she wrote, “Jazz represents the freedom and individual ideas that make up American culture. It is easy and boring to go through life passively.” Whether you know her as a friend, a classmate, a student, or even as a role model, I do not believe anyone can accuse Elizabeth of ever going through life passively.





Across

4. Bill \_\_\_\_ the science guy  
5. Of, or belonging to, the Class of 2010 Secretary  
6. Virtual table tennis of the 1970s  
9. Call for help; Rihanna single  
11. \_\_\_\_ and behold!  
12. Covers camera lenses and heads  
14. Legendary retired Latin Prose Honors teacher  
15. One of canada’s provinces  
16. Mr. Bear’s assistant; the Half-Blooded Prince  
20. Reserved section of a club  
22. Keep the \_\_\_\_; have \_\_\_\_ in me; \_\_\_\_ Zeng!  
23. Jo’burg country (abbr.)  
24. If I wanted to tell you the purpose of this crossword, I’d use this conjunction  
25. Cotton swab  
27. Common first words  
29. Large eared Disney Character  
31. The reciprocal of COS; “Hold on a \_\_\_\_”  
33. The end
35. Poker ploy  
36. Perpetually absent spanish 4 master  
37. Prescription symbol  
38. H2O brand  
39. Angle variable  
41. Legendary French fashion designer \_\_\_\_ Chanel  
42. To read over; fat-free milk  
43. BLS Wolfie of 2010  
45. Electron orbit  
46. The most famous plumber of all time?  
47. First of andrew jackson’s vice presi- dents  
49. Describes noese, alcoholic drinks, and queens  
51. 88.8% of water  
54. Rugrats protagonist, of the Pickles family  
56. Hardest working man in show busi- ness  
59. 39 Destination  
60. Clayware

Down

1. 40th US President  
2. You get stuck in this, but you also put it on your bread  
3. Leg bone  
6. Story; farm  
7. Describes cards, or pancake diners  
8. Half of a cheerleader’s accessory?  
10. Colgate rival  
12. A dog, to Julius  
13. Home of Sesame Street and Master- piece Theatre  
17. In internet lingo, the appropriate response to “ty”  
18. This isn’t a planet anymore  
19. Pop artist stuck in a ‘Bad Romance’  
21. Describes numbers like 2, 3, 11, and 29  
26. Boston disaster of ‘78  
28. Cat catchees  
30. Arrested Development family  
31. The river between earth and the un- derworld  
32. I’m seeing double of this Boston Latin School teacher
34. Borders Belgium and Germany (abbr.)  
36. Jo’ Bro  
37. Buttery cracker brand  
38. Elmo and Cowardly Lion’s BFF  
39. Opposite over adjacent (abbr.)  
40. Shakespeare Comedy: \_\_\_\_ you like it  
44. Guns n Roses lead singer: \_\_\_\_ Rose  
45. The smell emanating from the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum  
48. E pluribus \_\_\_\_  
50. Seven Dwarfs leader  
52. Travelocity mascot  
53. Easter favorite; sugar filled yellow duck  
54. Common Vietnamese surname  
55. Event host (abbr.)  
57. The early bird catches this  
58. Football stars (abbr.)

Sudokus

Easy

	3	4			2		8	
1				3			6	
		5	8	7			3	
			6				2	3
9		3	1		5	4		8
5	2				7			
	5			1	6	3		
	1			9				7
	4		2			1	9	

Diabolical

								7
		8	3				1	5
	4		9		7			
8			6					1
		6	1		5	2		
1					3			9
			4		2		5	
3	2				6	8		
9								



# SPORTS

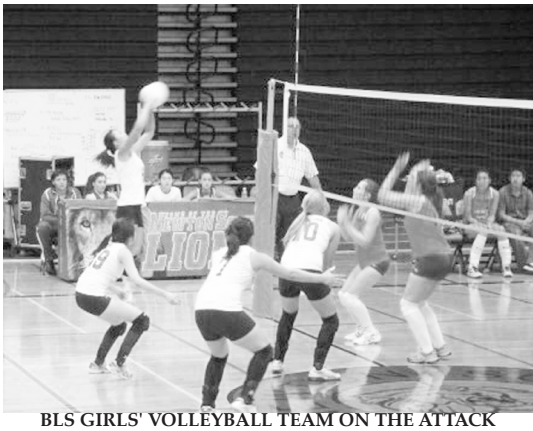
## A Good Season Ends Too Soon

BY DEIRDRE GALLAGHER, I  
& DORA TAO, I  
CONTRIBUTING & STAFF WRITER

With a record of 11-7, the Boston Latin School Girls' Varsity Volleyball team, led by co-captains Chanel Lee (I) and Kit Ho (I), ended its season strong with a trip to the playoffs. The road to the playoffs, however, was certainly a bumpy one that was filled with many obstacles. One of the biggest challenges was the loss of several veteran players due to graduation. As a result, not only was half of this year's team comprised of newcomers, but six out of the twelve were also sophomores, making the team fairly young and inexperienced. In addition, the team hit a slump in the midst of the season, which seemed to dash its postseason hopes. Yet despite the challenges, the team prevailed, winning three of its last four games, including a playoff-clinching victory against rival Newton South, a team that had beat the girls earlier in the season. "[The Newton South victory] made [us] all feel extremely proud of [our] success," said Sam Prince (I).

The team put in a great deal of effort, conducting daily practices from 2:30P.M. – 5:30P.M. after school. These intense sessions certainly made an impact on its performance. As Prince said, "Practice gave us the ability to perform under high stress and in game point situations

and helped [us] not get down on ourselves in order to rally from a deficit." In addition to the long practices, the girls felt as though teamwork was a big key for them. "I think we knew that we could win and we needed to prove it to ourselves," said Justyne Collier (I). "Also, a lot of us have been together since freshman year, playing through junior varsity and then varsity, so we know each other really well." After making it to the playoffs last year, the girls



BLS GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM ON THE ATTACK

wanted to continue their successes and work hard, which clearly paid off. Also, there were a few other players who rose above and beyond to help the team. Two of the starters, Claire Zimmerman (III) and Courtney Hoban (III), clearly gave the team their all. Captains Lee and Ho were also a strong force, offering leadership to the girls. In addition, there were a number of players who kept spirits up and encouraged others, such as Kathy Li

(I) and Darry Ma (I).

The day before the team's first play-off game, everybody was excited to play against the Brookline Warriors. Although the Wolfpack knew that Brookline had strong offensive players, the girls were up for the challenge. From the start, both teams proved to be an adequate match for each other. "Even though we lost the first set, it was very close. I was really pumped after we won the second set because we had played smart by taking advantage of Brookline's weaknesses," said Ma. In the end, Brookline proved that it had what it took to advance to the next match. Even with the loss, the girls were still able to show that they had come a long way as a team. Ma added, "The season started off a little shaky but I think that we tried our best and definitely improved since the beginning of the season."

All in all, both fans and the players themselves are proud of their success. "I think we did really well this season," Prince said. "We were able to overcome the loss of many star players and come together as a team to accomplish our goal which was to make the playoffs." Although some may have doubted the team, the girls were able to prove the naysayers wrong, showing that no matter the struggle or condition, they could work their hardest and have something to show for it. With the season behind them, the girls can be proud of continuing the tradition of reaching the playoffs.

## Preparation Pays Off for 2010

BY SANCHAY JAIN, I  
& DEVIN KIRBY, II  
SPORTS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

The Juniors versus Seniors Powder-puff game has become one of Boston Latin School's favorite traditions. It is known for its surprising intensity and the physical prowess that both teams exhibit during the course of the game. While this year's match definitely fulfilled this criteria, the senior girls appeared to be better prepared than their junior opponents, resulting in a 7-2 blowout.

On the seniors' side, there was a lot of excitement in the air. "We're here to do what the Patriots couldn't do last night," said Helena Iftica (I). Looking to avenge

their previous loss to the class of 2009, the seniors were ready and spent most of the day of the actual game intimidating the juniors with raucous chanting. "2011 better know it's our year," warned Rebecca White (I), "[because] 2010 is our year to shine." The squad, coached by Trevor Sybertz (I), Samuel Adams (I), and Raffi Yessayan (I), was definitely prepared to annihilate the competition. As Sybertz put it, "I gave our team a motto: 'If she's not dead, it doesn't count.'"

For the juniors, there was an air of thrill and anticipation. As co-captain Jackie McDonagh (II) said: "I was so excited, especially after I saw all my senior friends. I couldn't wait for the game to start." Despite their good feelings and

merriment, the juniors' lack of preparation and organization brought them to their defeat. By all means, this was no fault of the players, for most of them were excited to get out there and give it their all. Coaching problems were a big factor; the trio of Gabe Diop (II), Gabe Calmon (II) and the much cheered-for Connor Carrigan (II) were chosen literally at the start of the game. As Diop said: "Coaching was a big challenge. Little stuff like picking the lineups took up a lot of time, and those things could've been done a long time before the actual game." Despite a lackluster performance ...

PREPARATION PAYS OFF FOR 2010  
*Continued on page 15*

## NFL Power Rankings: Top 15

BY BRIAN SITCAWICH, I  
STAFF WRITER

**Indianapolis Colts (9-0)** – The Colts remain undefeated after a late come-back against the Patriots. Peyton Manning knows how to win games. The Colts are the team to beat in 2009.

**Minnesota Vikings (8-1)** – The Vikings have great defense, the best running back, and an impressive start from Brett Favre. This team is one of the legitimate Super Bowl contenders.

**New Orleans Saints (9-0)** – The Saints put up more points than any other team in the National Football League. However, their past few wins have been unimpressive, especially against the St. Louis Rams. I still believe that the Patriots will trample them in a couple of weeks.

**Cincinnati Bengals (7-2)** – The Bengals, one of the most surprising teams this year, have proven that their defense is legitimate. The return of Carson Palmer and the emergence of Cedric Benson have revitalized this formerly disappointing team.

**New England Patriots (6-3)** – Tom Brady has reestablished the long ball connection with Randy Moss. Without one terrible late call against Indianapolis, this team may have defeated the best in the game.

**Pittsburg Steelers (6-3)** – With Troy Polamalu returning from injury, the Steelers' defense is once again becoming one of the most feared in football. Their offense does not look too bad either.

**Denver Broncos (6-3)** – After the most impressive start of the season, the Broncos have lost three straight games.

**San Diego Chargers (6-3)** – This team is getting hot, and Phillip Rivers is finding his stride. They have eliminated the gap in the American Football Conference West and are threatening to overcome a three-game deficit behind Denver for the second year in a row.

**Arizona Cardinals (6-3)** – They still have one of the best receiving options in the league. Although they are not a championship-caliber team, they could be dangerous, if Anquan Boldin is able to regain strength in his ankle.

**Dallas Cowboys (6-3)** – I am still not completely buying this team. They have the talent, but do they have the chemistry? On a different note, Miles Austin has had a very successful rookie year.

**Baltimore Ravens (5-4)** – Ray Rice is having a phenomenal year. The Ravens' defense is back to its good old hard-hitting self.

**Philadelphia Eagles (5-4)** – Led by Asante Samuel, the Eagles' defense can make things happen. DeSean Jackson is also emerging as a serious threat to any defense.

**Atlanta Falcons (5-4)** – Michael Turner is once again one of the league's dominant running backs, after a slow start. Unfortunately, Matt Ryan appears to have hit a sophomore slump.

**Green Bay Packers (5-4)** – If only Aaron Rodgers would not take so many of those sacks...

**New York Giants (5-4)** – A weak receiving core is really starting to take its toll on the Giants. They are no longer the same team that they were two years ago.

## Spotlight

### Bridget Quinn



BY JILLIAN GALAFARO, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My first memory of Bridget Quinn is from the 1st grade. She was the new girl, and when I showed her to her cubby, she seemed quiet. My second memory of her is at recess; that same day, Bridget had me in tears. She was running around screaming, "Jillian Galo-FART-o." By the end of the day, there were many more events that made me realize antics like that were Bridget's specialty, and over the past 12 years, I have grown to love them.

Bridget has always been a role model for me. Many people are only aware of her stellar athletic ability, her amazing clarinet skills and her superior intelligence, but I have had the honor of witnessing her other hidden talents. Bridget's vocal skills are impeccable; her voice has been described as a cross between Fergie and Jesus. Brennan Huff, the songbird of our generation? Pshh. Bridget all the way! Often times on the basketball court, Bridget subtly lulls her opponent to sleep with her angelic melodies. At that very moment, she makes her move and steals the ball from them to shoot her infamous half court shot--after all, Stealth is her middle name. Bridget's artistic talent does not stop there. Her graceful, yet show-stopping, dance moves put any Dance Crew to shame. Her dancing success has not been obtained easily: Bridget dedicates at least two hours per night in front of YouTube, keeping up with the newest fads, the sign of a true dancing diva. This 12-year Girl Scout veteran also holds the world record for most Girl Scout cookies sold. The official count has not yet been released, but I can assure you that she put Bernice, the beaver tranquilizer Girl Scout, to shame.

On top of all of Bridget's hidden skill, she is well known for her athletic ability. Bridget and I have been playing on the same basketball team since the 2nd grade. Whether we are up by ten or down by twenty-two, Bridget always puts on a positive attitude. The basketball team can always count on Bridget to lighten up even the most arduous practices. For example, she runs sprints with just her spandex shorts on, or makes farting noises with her shoe. How a member of the team can forget "Quinny's" first name is beyond me, but for that reason, this member will not be returning this season.

Hardly ever receiving a grade below a B, I know Bridget will have many fine schools on their knees, begging her to attend their institutions. I should also mention that in Bridget's six years at Boston Latin School, she has only been absent once. As you can see, Bridget is a joy to be around. She is an amazing friend who always has a positive and extremely goofy outlook on life. Over the past 12 years, I am so happy that I have had the opportunity of being one of her best friends. I am very excited to see what lies ahead for this blonde bombshell.



Spotlight  
Sam Adams



BY MATT MACCARTY, I  
& MIKE SCANNELL, II  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

As people walk through the corridors of Boston Latin School, they must ask themselves, “Who’s that beastly kid with the multi-colored beard? Why is he grasping a three gallon water jug like it’s a football? Why does he want to kill me?” This terrifying man-child is no mortal; he is Samuel True Adams. He was taught to grip water jugs like that back at his previous institution, The Learning Project. He does not want to kill you. Usually, Sam is just tired from a long night of studies.

Sam, the only child of Chuck and Anne Adams, has been a true sensation both on and off the football field his entire life. He has played nearly every position throughout his football career, which demonstrates his superior athleticism. It has been said that he was the stunt double for Boobie Miles in the film Friday Night Lights and performed all of the tasks that Miles was incapable of executing. Even though Sam is in optimal physical shape and does not need to train, he still does it anyways—for fun. Rumor has it that Sam only knows how to sprint and has never jogged or walked in his life. Some say that while he sprints, he mutters the name of his next on-field victim under his breath. He has proven his great leadership for the Wolfpack and maintains a 4.0 Grade Point Average while doing so. Some may ask, “Gosh, how do you do it?” Sam will modestly reply, “Drink lots of whey protein and never give up, kid.”

Let me, Matt, describe the first day I met Sam. It was a warm July evening in 2000. I was riding my Razor scooter down my street with a couple of neighbors. As I reached the end of Avalon Road, I noticed a rather large brute running back and forth in his yard. So I went over, introduced myself, and asked if he wanted to hang out with us. Sam said to me, “Yeah, I’ll grab my scooter in 17 minutes when I’m done training for BLS football.” I replied, “C’mon man, that’s like eight years away from now.” I’ll never forget his response: “Heroes get remembered but legends never die.” This quote was later used without his permission in the hit movie The Sandlot.

He has also been a part of the BLS baseball system since his freshman year. The three of us played for the Reds in Babe Ruth, where we taught Sam the proper techniques of the game. Now, his fastball clocks in around 90 MPH! As Sam begins to apply to prestigious colleges, like Boston College and Northeastern University, it’s a fact that his presence will be greatly missed in the halls of BLS next year.

SPORTS  
Cross Country Steadily Rises

BY ALEX WILLIAMS, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many would not consider running through the forest on a sunny autumn day to be the most exciting of activities. Boston Latin School’s Cross Country team, however, proved otherwise this 2009 fall season. Leading the girls’ team this year were captains Mai Hunt (I), Leanna Ehrlich (I) and Sarah Minahan (I). Despite losing longtime runners Claire Ruff and Kerri Costello after their graduation, the girls’ team was able to fill the empty spaces with new runners Cindy Guan (II) and Vanya Zvonar (III), who made varsity in their first year of cross country. In addition, Beth Minahan (IV), Sophie Granberry (IV), Dayo Hall (IV) and Gwen Paradis (IV) were welcomed onto the junior varsity team. Cross country veteran Kathleen Mello (II) states, “Considering this was their first season of cross country, they did very well adjusting to the sport.” Despite the small size of the roster, the girls proved to be a diverse group that saw runners from virtually every grade.

Although injuries took two valued runners from the team at the beginning of

the season, the girls managed to improve as a whole. Personal records (PRs) achieved at each meet ultimately revealed five strong runners: Ehrlich, Minahan, and Guan all qualified for the Eastern Massachusetts Division 1 Championships, as did Elza Lambergs (II), and Tiffany Fonseca (II). If they are able to improve their PRs, the girls will have a chance of qualifying for the All-State meet.

Not only have the members done well with their times, but they have also cooperated as a team throughout the season. According to Lambergs, “Most of the girls on the team are friends with each other. I know that pretty much all my best friends are on the team. Everyone is really good about supporting each other at meets and helping each other through workouts.” There have even been some team-building activities, such as splatter-painting sweatpants.

With no seniors to lead, junior captains Nick D’Agostino (II) and Brian Mahoney (II) took charge of the boys’ team. New additions to the boys’ team were Mike Kreisberg (V), Mather Hoyt (V), and Gabe Paradis (II). According to Michael Ward (IV), “Mike and Mather

have done well for eighth graders and Gabe has really helped because he is our fifth best guy. We needed him so we could score in some varsity races.” For the boys, achieving personal records have also resulted in accomplishments at meets. For instance, Ward qualified third in the Dual County League Championships for freshmen and is one of the top-ranked freshmen for the McIntyre Invitational, the Catholic Memorial Invitational, and the Mass State Coaches meets. D’Agostino and Mahoney also performed well in the varsity divisions of these meets.

After this season ends though, the cross country team will lose some members, along with its captains Hunt, Minahan, and Ehrlich. “My last cross country season at BLS was pretty good,” says Minahan. “I PRed by 45 seconds which was exciting, and I really enjoyed being captain.” Other members of the team claim that practices will not be the same with the absence of the current seniors. Although they are suffering the loss of good friends and runners, the 2010 BLS Cross Country team looks promising in the eyes of the current athletes as they strive to dominate the meets and surpass their personal records.

Positivity Out Laps The Foe

BY NOEL HAINES, I  
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Latin School Girls’ Swimming Team embodies the quality of resilience with the positive attitude it displays in meeting challenges. Rather than dwell on its numerous setbacks, the team uses them for motivation, viewing them in the best possible light. For example, whereas most people would see a disadvantage in having the status as one of the lone schools in its league without its own pool and without the extra practice time that comes with it, the team was excited to return to the Murphy Pool in Dorchester this year, despite the thirty minute bus ride. The team’s practices last about an hour and a half, with the lack of longer pool access time being compensated for with efficient sessions.

Although the team hoped for more success this season, it has managed numerous big victories. These were accomplished even despite another of the team’s major obstacles: a lack of divers. For the past

three years the team has been without them and the crucial points they provide, but as co-captain Mona Huang (I) says, they’ve learned to adjust: “I think after three years we’ve gotten used to it and instead of dwelling on our shortcomings, we’ve learned to focus on swimming fast to make up for those points.” The team did just that against Sandwich in their last home meet. Cheered on by fans, they beat Sandwich by 13 points, the deficit they typically face due to their lack of divers. However, in close meets, the lack of divers can be especially painful. A 2 point loss to Marshfield is viewed as one of the team’s most disappointing losses of the season. Co-captain Bridget Quinn (I) states, “If they hadn’t had the advantage of the points they got for diving, we would have beaten them.”

But in addition to its winning attitude, the team is able to rally behind its leadership in pursuing success. Led by its six senior captains Huang, Quinn, Lydia Hogan, Ellen Keenan, Samantha Monday, and Brighid O’Brien, the team has become

a more cohesive unit than it has been in recent years. “Even though we had such a large group of girls, I feel like this year we all got along really well,” Quinn says. “I think we all became a lot closer as a team this year, which we have sometimes struggled to do in the past.” Hopefully having the advantage of a larger, more connected team will ease the transition into next season and lighten the impact of losing so many key members. The team’s large junior class and several talented underclassmen promise to bring the team even more success next season.

Despite not finishing the season with a winning record, the Girls’ Swimming Team received some recognition for its efforts. Three relays qualified for sectionals, with two of those three (the 200 Medley Relay and the 200 Free Relay) qualifying for state championships. However, the main prize the swimmers take away from the season is the experience. “We are serious about wanting to win meets,” says Samantha Monday (I), “but we have so much fun doing it. I love being on the team.”

An Early Look Inside the NHL

BY MIKE TOMASINI, II  
STAFF WRITER

It’s only a month into the 2009-2010 season, and already the Boston Bruins have given the NHL a great deal of surprises. They stunned the experts who thought they would be a lock as Eastern Conference champion with a relatively slow start of 8-7-4, giving them an unsatisfactory 10th place spot. They shocked many a fan by trading away popular grinder Chuck Kobasew solely for the purpose of freeing up some cap room. Injuries to team leaders Marc Savard and Milan Lucic further dismayed the hometown crowd. Yet despite the negative impact of these events, good things have come to the B’s as well. Patrice Bergeron has stepped up his game in the absence of Savard and leads the team in points. New acquisitions Derek Morris and Daniel Paille have fit in well with B’s system. Goaltender Tim Thomas has shaken off the offseason rust of the first few games shown by his recent shutouts of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Florida Panthers. The return of Savvy

and Looch in the weeks to come should give the team the boost of confidence it needs to return to supremacy and once again become serious contenders for Lord Stanley’s Cup in June.

Elsewhere in the NHL, the San Jose Sharks, led by ex-bruin Joe Thornton, have taken back their role as kings of the West. If they can get past their inability to win in the playoffs they may very well represent the Western Conference in the Stanley Cup Finals. Dark horse candidates in the Colorado Avalanche and the Phoenix Coyotes, however, hope to provide the Sharks with some serious competition. Led by strong goaltending in Ilya Brzgalov and Craig Anderson, Phoenix and Colorado have taken essential steps to overtaking last season’s President’s Trophy winners for supremacy in the west.

Back east, “Sid the Kid” Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Washington Capitals forward “Alexander the Great” Ovechkin have continued to excel this year, and consequently the Pens and Caps sit atop their respective divisions. Con-

sidered to be the future of the modern NHL, they have been joined this year by even more young faces, particularly by rookies John Tavares of the New York Islanders and Evander Kane of the Atlanta Thrashers. Tavares leads his team with 18 points, while Kane is a team high +10 on the season. Other young players to look out for are Erik Johnson of the St. Louis Blues, Evgeni Malkin of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Anze Kopitar of the Los Angeles Kings.

The NHL, often overshadowed by the other three major sports in America, is finally starting to show some promise again. Viewership, up 15 percent this season, is mainly being attributed to the aforementioned influx of young players and the growing popularity of HD hockey. Not long ago known only as a niche sport, mainstream audiences are finally starting to click with the game that many thought “only a puckhead could love”. If Gary Bettman and other NHL brass play their cards right, one day the Winter Classic might have the same ring to it as the Super Bowl. A puckhead can dream, can’t he?



# SPORTS

## Seniors Discuss Rivalry

BY SANCHAY JAIN, I  
SPORTS EDITOR

The day after the *Argo* comes out will mark the 123rd football game between Boston Latin School and archrival Boston English High School. The Thanksgiving game will continue the oldest football rivalry in the nation. BLS has an edge over English in terms of the record (73-36-13) and seems to have that position secured considering that the last time BLS lost this game was in 1997. I asked some of the seniors of the Wolfpack squad to share their thoughts about the importance of this rivalry. Here is what they had to say:

Jon Harrington: “The English game is the only game everyone remembers. When I talk to alumni and mention that I play football, they always ask about English. It is a great honor to have played in the oldest rivalry game in the country. I was fortunate enough to have played last year and, although I only threw one pass, we won and it was one of the best experiences I have had. It is a unique experience to play at Harvard Stadium in front of the largest crowd we have all year.”

Trevor Sybertz: “The English game is probably the most exciting game of the year for everybody because of the tradition and the rivalry between us. Even though it’s not as big of a rivalry now as it was 30 or 40 years ago, it is still exciting to play in because it is a historic game. My favorite part of it is how there is always a big crowd of BLS fans at the game supporting the team.”

Noel Haines: “We look forward to playing English every year because it is a good way to send the seniors off on a high note. For many of us, it’s the last organized football game we’ll ever play, so the team comes together to try to make it a memorable game. This is one of English’s biggest games of their season, and so, we have to come out with an intensity to match and compete with them. The rally is a fun experience too because it gets the entire school involved and it carries on the tradition. Although we feel we haven’t been getting the results we’ve been looking for in our last couple of games, playing English is a way to close the season off well and hopefully build up some momentum for a better season for next year’s team.”

Sam Adams: “To be part of the longest continuous football rivalry in the entire country is an honor and privilege. I feel very lucky to be a part of something with so much history behind it. Although the rally is fun and entertaining, my favorite part is simply going out there and playing in the game. We get to play at Harvard Stadium which is also a unique experience. Although in recent years the game has not been as competitive as it has in the past, I still approach it like I would any other game. Having started in the game last year as a junior, I realized that the game is very important to the seniors. Now as a senior myself, I hope that my last game in a purple and white jersey will be exciting and memorable.”

Raffi Yessayan: “This is going to be one of the most memorable games we will ever play. The Latin-English tradition is very important to us seniors because for most of us it is going to be the last time we ever play organized football. It’s also going to be the last time we wear that Latin School Jersey and represent Wolfpack Football. It’s going to be a very exciting game and the Wolfpack will end up on top.”

## Pulling Through with a Cheer

BY JIAYUAN WANG, I  
STAFF WRITER

In recent years, the Boston Latin School cheerleaders have done an outstanding job. Since 2007, they have competed in three Dual County League competitions, placing third in 2007, second in 2008, and third in 2009. They have established a reputation over the past three years of being a competitive team, especially after they advanced to the national meets last year.

“Competing is amazing,” says Emily Jager (I). “It’s so much fun, and it’s so rewarding to have all your hard work pay off.” Jager is one of the captains for this year’s team, along with Brittany Barrett (I) and Shannon Murphy (I). If you think that cheerleading is a piece of cake, then you are sadly mistaken—unless you can do a quadruple back flip followed by a mid-air flip and stick the landing.

As you can see, cheerleading takes a lot of practice. The squad usually trains five days a week from 2:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. after school and for an additional three to five hours during weekends when there

are upcoming competitions. The amount of practice requires intense dedication, and the girls take a lot of pride in it. As Murphy states, “I’m so proud of these girls this year and how hard they’ve all worked.”

All sports teams are forced to struggle through adversity, and this year’s Wolfpack Cheerleading Squad is no different. Its obstacle has come in the form of injuries: Jager sprained her thumb, Grace Coviello (IV) sustained a neck injury, and Becca Jackson (II) suffered a concussion. In addition, many other cheerleaders sprained their ankles during the course of the rigorous season. However, the team has persevered through these challenges and learned something new. “We had to substitute new people,” says Jager. “This taught us how to adapt to future unforeseen circumstances.”

Although things do get rough, the coaches, Shana Melcher (Class of 2005) and Mrs. Ellen Moy-Maneikis, are there to help the cheerleaders. Melcher handles most of the competition aspects of cheerleading and guides the cheerleaders throughout the season, while Mrs. Maneikis manages the squad and cheers

at the football games. Melcher has been the driving force behind every competition the team has participated in for the past three years.

“She comes to almost every practice and makes up our whole competition routine, and it was because of all the time and effort that she put into the team that we made it all the way to Nationals last year in Disney,” says Murphy. Of course, a lot of credit needs to go to Mrs. Maneikis as well. Jager agrees: “She works hard to make sure the team is running smoothly.”

Some may think that the cheerleaders only perform at football games, but that is not true at all. Earlier this year, the cheerleaders participated in the Walk for Hunger by cheering at the finish line in order to support the walkers. They take part in school events and volunteer at open houses and alumni events. People should also look forward to Rally Day and the Thanksgiving game at White Stadium. As for the future of BLS Cheerleading, the captains believe that the younger girls will do their part and expect the two juniors, Jackson and Marie Kelly, to become great leaders.

## Spotlight

### Kirsten Hartwick



BY ELIZABETH JIANG, III  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you are ever on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* and have to “phone a friend,” you should, without hesitation, choose Kirsten. Not only is this girl wicked smart, but she is also the type of person who bothers to know the insignificant details most people don’t care about—not to mention how funny it would be to hear her cough on TV.

Kirsten has been such a great role model to me throughout my time at BLS. I met her in the summer of 2008, when we were trying out for soccer at Millennium. It was more like I was trying out and she was just there for kicks (with her skill, there was no doubt that she wouldn’t make the team). After being completely shut down by her in the timed mile-run (she ran a 7-minute mile, a time that is basically unheard of in soccer) and burned by her crazy midfield skills, I decided that I should befriend this crazy soccer maniac. As the season progressed, Kirsten and I definitely became better friends and I improved my soccer skills because of her. She was such a nice and welcoming upperclassman that I felt flattered to be her friend (I was a freshman at the time). When the season ended, our friendship didn’t because Kirsten isn’t the type of person who would sashay past you without saying “hey” or something completely inappropriate and hilarious to you in the hallway.

In the spring of 2009, I was excited that both of us were doing outdoor track. We became running buddies with common goals: to run a mile under seven minutes and to prepare for the upcoming soccer tryouts. After both of us achieved a 6:25 at a Waltham meet, track turned into a gossip session—she talked about her dramatic life while I confided in her and asked her for advice. Once, when I wasn’t feeling well, she was such a “momma bear” that I was surprised as she was an only child and does not practice her motherly skills on younger siblings.

In this past soccer season, Kirsten was a genuinely great captain. She not only brought fun into practices but also focused on helping us become a better and closer team. Being one of our best midfielders with divine moves, she started all our games. I always resorted to her to cheer me up and to give me the best advice when there was no one else I could confide in. With the rest of this year’s co-captains, she made the 2009 season the best yet.

My friendship with Kirsten has definitely changed me for the better. She has taught me to be nice to everyone, to be well-rounded, and to be serious about soccer. Without her, I wouldn’t be the person I am today. Thank you Kirsten! I’ll miss you when you leave for college.

### PREPARATION PAYS OFF FOR 2010

Continued from page 13

... the junior girls still played their hearts out and finished the game with commendable effort. “The game was really fun, although we were a little disorganized,” remarked Megan Duckworth (II) after the game. Overall, the junior girls seemed to share Duckworth’s positive view.

Within the first few minutes of the game, the seniors began to put points on the board with a touchdown by Tonia Speicher (I). Although the juniors attempted to catch up, the class of 2010 dominated the field with six subsequent touchdowns. Siobhan Elvin scored two touchdowns, while Priscille Demusthene and Jillian Galafaro added one each. The defensive performance of the seniors was world class. As coach Adams put it, “We’re an agile, hostile, and mobile machine.” Yessayan perhaps summed up the performance best when he said, “Gojimba [Gloria Ojimba] gave it her all and killed the QB.”

The seniors certainly felt triumphant after their victory over the juniors. “We felt like champs,” said Rachael Robinson.



SENIORS GET READY TO INTERCEPT A RUN

Ultimately, the key for the senior girls’ success proved to be their unity. “After coming so close last year it’s finally our turn to dominate,” said Kathryn Banks

(I), “The score just defines how much we support BLS and each other.” The class of 2011 should keep this in mind if they wish to defeat the sophomores next year.





# Any Given Saturday

STEVEN PRINCIPI, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Anyone who thinks that this season of college football has gone exactly as you thought, please stand up. You are lying. It has been another unpredictable season with impossible upsets and crazy plays happening almost weekly. The highly ranked preseason teams, Oklahoma (#3), Mississippi (#8), and Florida State (#18), are now fighting just to remain relevant. Formerly overlooked teams, like Iowa State, Texas Christian University, and Boise State, have combined for a total of one loss this season. Someone needs to tell me who Case Keenum is before I even think that this season was expected. As the regular season winds down to its last month, it is just getting better and better.

To be honest, this is something we all should have seen coming from the first game of the season. After an embarrassing performance in a 19-8 loss, University of Oregon's running back, LeGarrette Blount, landed a sucker punch on a Boise State linebacker. He was then restrained by coaches and at least three teammates while attempting to get back on the field. Everyone watching must have been wondering what had just happened and what they had just witnessed. It was a sign of more things to come.

The Oklahoma Sooners was a team that many predicted to contend

for, and possibly win, a national championship. Sam Bradford was the reigning Heisman Trophy winner, and many anticipated him to be a Top 5 pick in the upcoming NFL draft. Then, in the very first game of the season, Bradford and the Sooners met Brigham Young University and linebacker Coleby Clawson. Clawson delivered a crushing hit to Bradford, knocking him out of the game and sidelining him for a few weeks with a shoulder injury. Oklahoma has been in a free fall ever since, having just dropped out of the Top 25 with a record of 5-4 that just screams mediocrity. Meanwhile, on the other side of the spectrum, the quarterbacks from Iowa and Cincinnati State have carried their teams and given them hopes of a Bowl Champion Series berth. Ricky Stanzi has leapt into the Heisman Trophy race with his outstanding play for the Hawkeyes, while Tony Pike and Zach Collaros have led to the rise of Big East-leading Bearcats.

Even in a season with so much chaos and insanity, some things do remain the same. Tim Tebow and his Florida Gators (ranked #1 in the country) are right where they were when the first preseason poll came out. Texas is still in the national championship contention, having fallen from #2 to #3. Alabama remains a top title contender, boasting a 9-0 record and a #2 ranking. The elite teams, like University of Southern California, Penn and Ohio State have all enjoyed their

usual successful seasons, marred by only one or two hiccups against teams that they probably should have beaten. In local news, Boston College, predicted by many "experts" to win just two games all

success has been due in large part to the emergence of quarterback Dave Shinskie (a 25-year-old freshman, and no, that is not a misprint). The success is also credited to the consistent performance of running



THE "LEGENDARY" DUKE FOOTBALL TEAM.

back Montel Harris, the great special teams work by Ryan Quigley, and the excellent overall play by senior captain wide receiver Rich Gunnel, who is the #1 projected draft pick by our own senior class treasurer, Eli Hoffman. In truth, this season has already been an overachievement for the BC Eagles, and anything else for the Maroon and Gold would only make this success even sweeter.

Without a doubt, it has been

season, is Bowl eligible for the 10th year in a row with a record of 6-3. It now has an outside chance of playing for the ACC Championship and a shot at the Orange Bowl for the 3rd year in a row. The team's

a crazy season, and every week just keeps getting crazier. How crazy? As I am sitting here writing this, Duke is winning 10-7 against #7 Georgia Tech. I did not know Duke still played football.

# Quidditch Game a Soaring Success

BY SANCHAY JAIN, I  
SPORTS EDITOR

When one thinks of Quidditch, images of flying broomsticks and small golden fluttering snitches are conjured. For the past few years, the element of flying was the main obstacle that prevented mankind from playing this highly competitive sport. As of press time, humans are still unable to fly on broomsticks. However, a couple of students from Middlebury College came up with an ingenious variation known as Muggle Quidditch, which has given those incapable of flight the opportunity to pick up the ole' broomstick, strap on a robe, and chase the snitch. Over one hundred colleges throughout the nation participate in intercollegiate Muggle Quidditch, which has now become a major sensation. Tadesh Ingaki (I) put it best when he said, "Who wouldn't want to play it?"

Thanks to the efforts of the Fashion Talent Club, Boston Latin School students had a unique opportunity to participate in a Quidditch tournament that was held on October 28th in the school's upper gym. After getting the approval of Head Master Ms. Mooney-Teta, the club began to bring their plan to life in early September. "From

there it was just hectic planning, from getting the hoops made to getting the right supplies for the snitches," said one of the officers, Cinique Weekes (I). "But we all pulled it off as a team effort."



THIS NEVER HAPPENS IN THE BOOK...

The players were placed in four teams, each representing one of the houses of Hogwarts (Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff, and Ravenclaw). All of the standard rules of Quidditch applied with a few practical variations thrown in (for example, anyone who was hit by a bludger was forced to run a lap around the court). Each game ended after 20 minutes or when the golden snitch had been caught. The captains for each of the teams were the four senior class officers: President

Tadesh Ingaki was chaser for Gryffindor, Vice President Olivia Collins played keeper for Ravenclaw, Treasurer Eli Hoffman was the keeper for Hufflepuff, Secretary Beata Coloyan played beater for Slytherin.

The games were fast-paced and intense. "The tournament was very interesting," said referee Paul Bernazzani. "I didn't know what to expect." All four teams certainly put a lot of effort into the games, making it a treat to watch from the sidelines. The games featured numerous scuffles as players fought for the quaffles and the bludgers. One fight, in particular, resulted in a pile similar to that of a football game, when a player used her broomstick as a fly swatter on a vulnerable competitor.

The most unique aspect of the game was the incorporation of the snitch, who were actually three human beings—Greg Hall (I), Tonia Speicher (I), and Alex Williams (I). Their job was arguably the most exhausting of all the performers in this tournament. They were to dart in and out of bounds while being chased by the

seekers of opposing teams, trying not to get caught. Speicher summed up the experience for the three snitches when she said "it was really fun because there was so much focus on us, but it was tough since the space was so small that you eventually got cornered."

The first and longest game was between Gryffindor and Hufflepuff. Gryffindor quickly jumped to a 50-0 lead, which they never relinquished. With 5:17 left, seeker Meisha Brooks (I) caught the snitch, giving Gryffindor the opening round victory. The second game ended within the fifth minute. Although Ravenclaw's keeper Collins never gave up a goal, her team was vanquished by the Slytherin team, thanks to the undisputed MVP of the tournament, seeker Matt Cronin (I).

The finale between archrivals Slytherin and Gryffindor was certainly thrilling, but much like Slytherin's first game, it ended abruptly. Cronin was simply unstoppable that day, and, in the end, it was Slytherin that emerged victorious without even scoring a goal. Of course, the victory came with a lot of controversy—at first glance, it appeared as if Gryffindor's snitch, Speicher, had made it safely out of bounds prior to Cronin catching her.

Ultimately, the Quidditch tournament was a tremendous success. Bleachers were completely filled with students eager to witness the competition. As Weekes put it, "I think I can speak on behalf of all the officers of Fashion Talent when I say that we were very pleased with the turnout." Hopefully, this serves as an auspicious sign for more Quidditch action in the future.